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# THE STORY OF VERMONT

BY  
HAROLD W. SLOCUM



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THE STORY OF VERMONT

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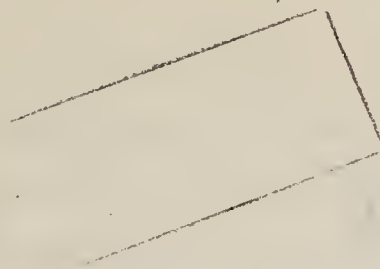
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## FOREWORD

In one of his books Alphonse Daudet wrote: "The Northern nations alone have invented, to meet their harsh climate, the word *home*, that intimate family circle to which the Provençal and the Italian prefer the gardens of cafés and the noise and excitement of the streets." The motif which runs through all the history of Vermont is love of home. The early settlers came to Vermont neither to escape from religious or political oppression nor to seek great wealth. Vermont offered only those things which are dear to a home-loving heart, the opportunity by honest labor in a beautiful environment to earn the necessities and a few of the luxuries of life.

The history of a people with such a commendable and modest ambition might well be one of peaceful and rather uneventful development. However, in order to defend their homes, these resolute pioneers, scattered in small settlements up and down the Green Mountains, were compelled to oppose first the mother country, then the powerful colony



of New York, and finally the Continental Congress of the United States. How, after twenty years of struggle, they did this successfully is one of the most interesting stories in the history of the United States.

Perhaps because of this struggle Vermonters to-day, in whatever part of the world they may live, regard the whole Green Mountain State, rather than any particular section of it, as home.

In this book I have endeavored to retell the story of the State in a manner that will interest both children and their parents. It is my hope that it may awaken the interest of those unfamiliar with the story of Vermont and increase the loyalty and pride of those to whom the Green Mountain State is home.

To Mr. Walter H. Crockett of the University of Vermont I wish to express my thanks for reviewing the manuscript from the view-point of historical accuracy.

HAROLD W. SLOCUM.

BURLINGTON, VERMONT.





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# THE STORY OF VERMONT

## CHAPTER I

### VERMONT IN 1777

Some hundred and seventy years ago, in the year 1777, the people of the State of New York, by a vote of the Legislature, decided to separate from the British Empire, and to form a new and independent State. This was the first time that a people had ever done so, and it was a great event in the history of the world.

## THE STORY OF VERMONT

From the first settlement of the State, the people have been known for their love of liberty and their devotion to the principles of justice and equality. They have been the first to establish a free press, and the first to give the right of suffrage to all the people. They have been the first to establish a system of public education, and the first to give the right of trial by jury to all the people. They have been the first to establish a system of public roads, and the first to give the right of free trade to all the people. They have been the first to establish a system of public health, and the first to give the right of free trade to all the people. They have been the first to establish a system of public safety, and the first to give the right of free trade to all the people.

All the people of the State have been known for their love of liberty and their devotion to the principles of justice and equality. They have been the first to establish a free press, and the first to give the right of suffrage to all the people. They have been the first to establish a system of public education, and the first to give the right of trial by jury to all the people. They have been the first to establish a system of public roads, and the first to give the right of free trade to all the people. They have been the first to establish a system of public health, and the first to give the right of free trade to all the people. They have been the first to establish a system of public safety, and the first to give the right of free trade to all the people.



# THE STORY OF VERMONT

## CHAPTER I

### FORT DUMMER

Three hundred and sixteen years ago Samuel de Champlain, with two soldiers and a number of Indians, launched his canoes in the waters of the beautiful lake that was later to be called Lake Champlain. They were the first white men to discover Lake Champlain. Eleven years later a band of Pilgrims landed from their ship, the *Mayflower*, on the shores of Massachusetts and founded the colony of Plymouth. Plymouth was about two hundred miles south of Lake Champlain. Samuel de Champlain and his followers were French, the Pilgrims were English. Between them lay the mountains, lakes, and rivers of Vermont.

As the years went by more and more people came from France to the country north of Vermont and more people came from England to the colony at Plymouth. The people from France, as a rule, were not anxious to make new homes in this country. Most of them were soldiers who were sent by their king to build





## 2 THE STORY OF VERMONT

forts here and there in the newly discovered lands. After the forts had been built men with sacks full of bright-colored beads and other things that the Indians were fond of would come and offer these things to the Indians in exchange for the furs of wild animals. Then these men would go back to France to sell these furs and in that way make lots of money. Besides the soldiers and traders there were a large number of brave priests who went out among the Indians to tell them of the Christian faith.

On the other hand, the people who came from England wanted to build new homes in this country. They cleared away the forests in order to build houses and plant crops. As a result of this difference between the French and the English, it came about that one hundred years after Champlain had discovered the lake that is named after him the French in the north country had only two towns, Quebec and Montreal, but they had forts and trading-posts clear from what is now the State of Maine as far west as what is now the State of Minnesota and south along the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. The English, on the other hand, had a large number of towns,







Champlain, two soldiers, and a number of Indians launched their  
canoes in a beautiful lake.





## 4 THE STORY OF VERMONT

but they were all quite near together and not far from the seashore. One French fort was located at Isle la Motte, in Lake Champlain, but there was no English fort anywhere in Vermont.

The French did not like the idea of the English towns growing, slowly but surely, nearer to their forts in New England. They decided that if they attacked some of the towns farthest away from Boston and killed the people it would frighten the English settlers in the other nearby towns, so that they would leave their homes and go back nearer to Boston.

So the French soldiers with a large number of Indians began a series of raids on the English towns in the colony of Massachusetts. They started out from Canada, went down Lake Champlain to the Winooski River, then along this river to about where Montpelier now stands. Here they left the Winooski River and travelled through the woods until they came to the White River. They followed this river until it emptied into the Connecticut River at what is now White River Junction, and then down the Connecticut River to the nearest English towns in Massachusetts.



When a few miles from the town, they would hide in the woods until night.

Oftentimes in the cold winter, the French and Indians would wait in their hiding-place in the woods until darkness came on and lights shone out from the small houses of the English settlers. As it grew late one by one the lights would go out, showing that the unsuspecting settlers had gone to bed. When the last light was gone the enemy silently, like shadows, moved out from the dark forest through the fields to the houses. Four or five surrounded each house, the muskets were made ready, and the cruel Indians took their tomahawks in one hand and the scalping knife in the other. Then the signal was given and the Indians broke the stillness with their terrifying war-whoop.

Up until this time all had been perfectly still; the English, sleeping in their beds, never dreamed that their cruel enemy was just outside their doors. They were awakened by the horrible war-whoop of the Indians. The men ran for their guns, and the women and children crowded into the corners of the rooms. Sometimes before the men could get to their guns the Indians would break in the door and with





## 6 THE STORY OF VERMONT

tomahawk and knife kill every member of the family. Sometimes the father and big brothers got their guns and drove the Indians out of the house. When this happened the Indians usually set the house on fire, and the family had to come out and try to fight their way to a neighbor's house. Out in the open the enemy often were able to kill all the men and capture the women and children.

On some of these trips the French and Indians burned every house in the settlement which they attacked, but usually quite a number of the English were able to reach the strongest house and keep the Indians back, so they could not set it on fire. If they could hold out until the beginning of morning they were safe, for always at the first sign of dawn the French and Indians, with their captives and all the stolen things they could carry, started back for the great forest. Then they began at once the long, hard march from one end of Vermont to the other, back to Lake Champlain, and then on to their homes in Canada. When they reached Canada only the strongest of the captives remained; all the rest had been unable to keep up and had perished during the terrible journey.





Fort Dummer had a high wall to protect the soldiers.





## 8 THE STORY OF VERMONT

As a result of these attacks the Colonial Assembly met in Boston to decide what should be done. Some thought that soldiers should be sent to all the settlements to guard the people but others said that there were not enough soldiers to guard all the towns and no one knew which town would be attacked next. These people thought that the best thing to do was to give up some of the settlements and send soldiers to guard the others.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the Massachusetts Colony told the members of the Assembly that he had learned that the French and Indians came down one of two rivers. He proposed that at the place where these rivers met they should build a fort so that when the French and Indians came down either river the soldiers at the fort could send a warning to the towns.

Some of the members did not agree to this, because they said that either the soldiers would be captured by the enemy before they could reach the towns or the enemy would get to the towns first. In answer to this the Lieutenant-Governor, whose name was Dummer, said that near the place where he would build the fort there were high mountains and that





soldiers from the top of these mountains could see all the surrounding country. He then explained that when the French and Indians camped for the night they built fires both for cooking and for warmth. The soldiers watching on the mountains could see the smoke from these fires rising above the tops of the forest-trees many miles away and would be able to reach the settlements and warn the people before the enemy appeared.

Finally it was agreed that, instead of giving up land, the English should go farther north toward the French. Timothy Dwight with some soldiers and carpenters started out in February and built the fort where the two rivers meet, as Lieutenant-Governor Dummer had suggested. These rivers are now called the Connecticut and West Rivers. Late in the summer the fort was finished, and you may see by the picture that it had a high wall to protect the soldiers in case of an attack by the enemy.

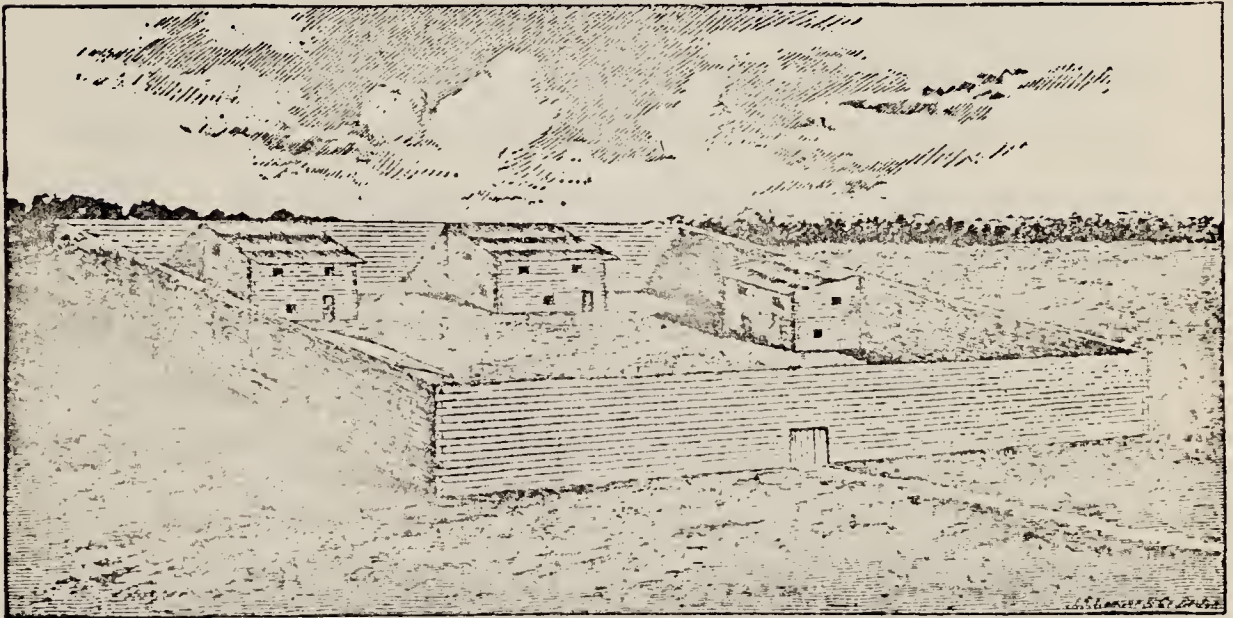
The fort was named Fort Dummer in honor of the Lieutenant-Governor and was the first English settlement in what is now Vermont.

Day after day, year after year, the soldiers



## 10 THE STORY OF VERMONT

went out from this fort and climbed the mountains to watch for the smoke of the enemies' camp. The French and Indians soon discovered that when they crept up to a settlement at night, instead of finding all the people



Fort Dummer, Brattleboro, Vermont.

From Crockett's "History of Vermont," by courtesy of the author.

asleep, they found them very much awake and ready for a fight. The French and Indians did not want to fight and so ran back into the forest and returned to Canada after making the long trip both ways for nothing.

And so it came about that the English settlements crept farther and farther north, and at night the people in the little frontier





towns went to bed without any fear of French and Indians, for they knew that far up in the woods the soldiers at Fort Dummer were on guard.





## CHAPTER II

### EARLY SETTLERS

For more than thirty years Fort Dummer was the only permanent English settlement in Vermont, and, aside from a few French houses on Lake Champlain, it was the only white settlement in our State. Stranger still, so far as we know, there were no Indian villages in Vermont during that time. The reason for this can be given in one word—War!

You have probably studied in your history books about the French and Indian wars. The French in Canada were determined to prevent the English from coming farther north, and the result was years of warfare. Vermont, lying between the two provinces, was a “no man’s land.”

We have told how the French with their Indian allies marched south to raid the English settlements. As the English grew stronger, they in turn formed small armies. They were often called rangers. These rangers marched north through the wilderness of Vermont and attacked the French and Indian settlements.



Their purpose was to recapture their friends who had been carried away by the enemy and to take revenge on the enemy for his bloody raids.

So year after year the beautiful State of Vermont was the highway for French and Indian war parties stealing south and English rangers cautiously going north. Between those two it was not safe for any person to build his home.

Finally in 1759 an English army under General Wolfe climbed the steep cliffs from the St. Lawrence River up to a plain just outside the city of Quebec, called "The Plains of Abraham." The French commander, Montcalm, marched his army out from the city to drive these English back. Here was fought the great battle which decided that England and not France should rule America. Both the famous generals were killed, but the French were defeated and forced to surrender. A few months later these long, bloody wars were over.

The war had done two things for Vermont: the armies going back and forth had blazed trails, and in a few places the English had built roads. The most famous road was from





## 14 THE STORY OF VERMONT

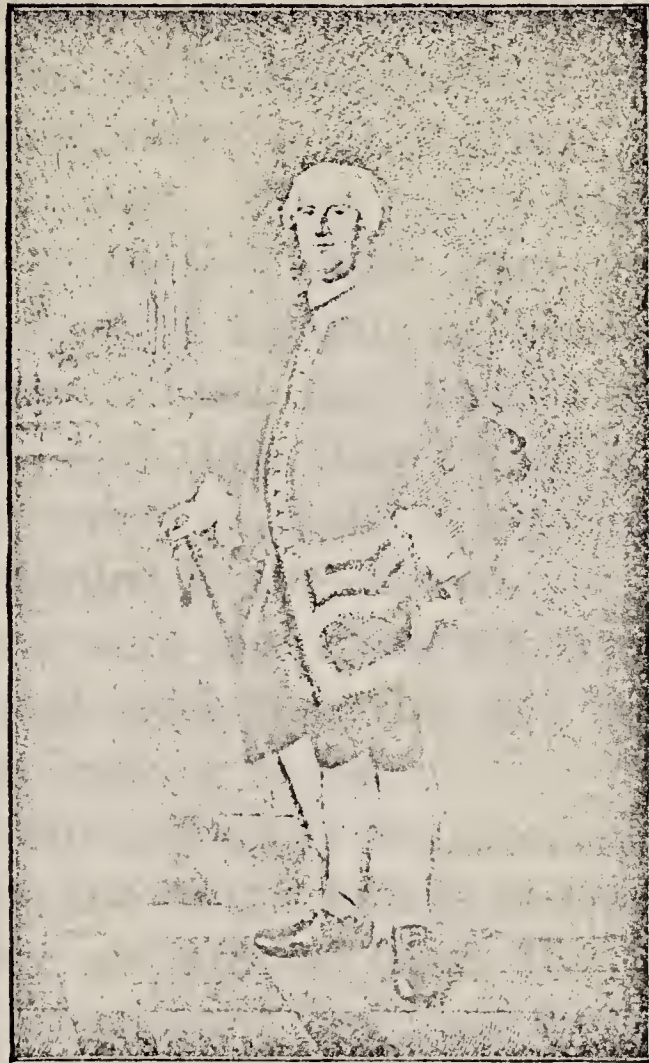
Charlestown, New Hampshire, across the Green Mountains to Crown Point, on Lake Champlain. The second advantage for Vermont was that the English rangers discovered what a beautiful place Vermont was. After they returned from the war they remembered the fertile valleys and magnificent mountains, and many of them resolved to make new homes in this beautiful country.

They were told that all this country was a part of the colony of New Hampshire and was called the New Hampshire Grants. The Governor of New Hampshire was glad to sell them tracts of land for homes and farms, and his terms were not difficult. In fact, the wise Governor of the New Hampshire Colony, Benning Wentworth, realized that this land would not be of much value to him unless people went there to live.

So, beginning in 1760, one hundred and forty years after the Pilgrims had landed at Plymouth in Massachusetts, English settlers began to enter Vermont. It was no easy task to start a home in this wild country. There were only a few roads, and often these early settlers had to carry everything needed to start a new home on their backs over many, many miles







Benning Wentworth, Governor of  
New Hampshire.

From Crockett's "History of Vermont," by courtesy of the author.

and with only a narrow trail, a river or creek to guide them.

When finally, tired out from their long, hard journey, the pioneer and his family reached the land they had bought there was nothing there but wilderness. Sometimes they found



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a clear space near a stream of water, where the beavers in building a town of their own had gnawed down a lot of trees. There was no time to rest. They had to have food and a house to protect them from the rain and from such wild animals as bears, panthers, and wolves. First they built a rude shelter of boughs and then they began to cut down trees in order to build a log house and to plant a garden in the cleared ground. When provisions were low these pioneers laid aside the axe and spade for a day and went into the woods to hunt or to fish.

When autumn came the snow on the mountain tops, the bright foliage of the forest and the frosty air warned them that they must prepare for winter. The little crops were harvested and the cracks in their cabins were securely sealed with moss and clay.

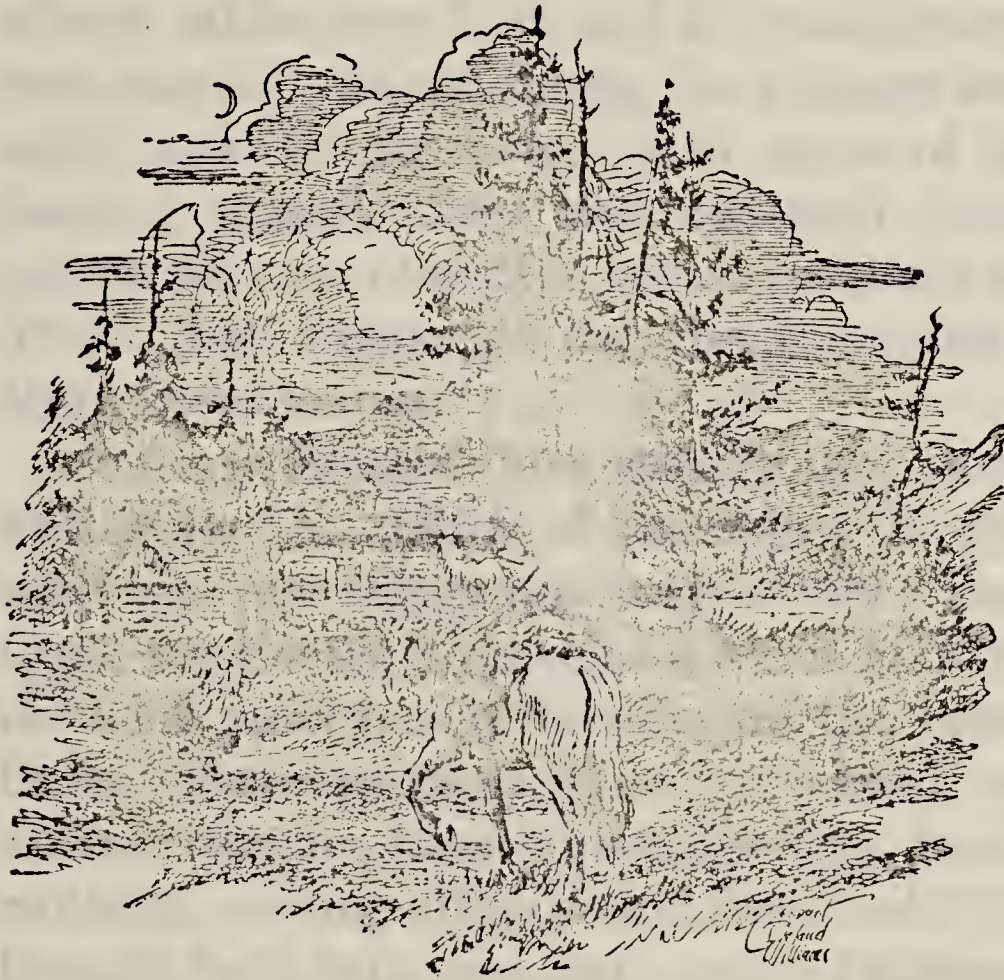
Then came the long, cold winter, alone in the great forest, no doctor to care for them if they became sick, no stores, not even any neighbors. Night after night they listened to the cold winds and the howls of hungry wolves which gathered around the cabin. Often during the night these settlers could hear a wild animal trying to force in a door or window.







Then they were glad that the doors were securely protected by strong bars, but, to make



The father returns, bringing with him new things and news of old friends.

doubly sure, the father would get his gun, load it, and place it beside his home-made bed.

When spring came at last there were two welcome sounds, the song of birds and the strokes of an axe near-by telling them that



## 18 THE STORY OF VERMONT

neighbors had arrived and were clearing the ground for a home. Henceforth, they would be less lonely. During the summer a number of new cabins were built and little settlements were started. In the spring the pioneers travelled back to the towns with skins of fur-bearing animals they had captured during the winter: the otter, the beaver, and the fox. These they exchanged for things needed in their forest homes.

You may imagine how eagerly the families waited for the return of the father bringing with him new things and news of old friends. Quite frequently he bought a horse and fastened his purchases in bundles on the horse's back. These pioneers must have been very skilful in loading their horses, for often, besides clothing, cooking utensils, and farm tools, they brought back little pigs and a crate of chickens. Sometimes they even drove cows before them through the forest.

In five years there were a number of communities in Vermont. Some of them had a church, a schoolhouse, a grist-mill to grind their grain and a saw-mill to cut the logs into boards so they could have floors, shelves, tables, and other things in their cabins. Of





course, these mills were located near waterfalls because they had no steam-engines in those days.

About this time, 1765, visitors who came back from the older towns in New Hampshire and Massachusetts brought news which disturbed these people a great deal. They said that the King in England, who ruled all the colonies, had decided that the lands these early settlers had bought from the Governor of New Hampshire did not belong to him but to the Governor of New York State. This was bad enough, for these people were from New England and wanted to remain New Englanders. But it was also reported that the Governor of New York was selling the homes and farms they had worked so hard to make to speculators in New York City and Albany. A few weeks after these reports gangs of men began to appear who said that they had been sent by the new owners of the land to survey it. These surveyors told the settlers that if they wanted to keep their farms they would have to pay for them again to the speculators in New York State who were now the lawful owners.

You may imagine that the settlers in Ver-





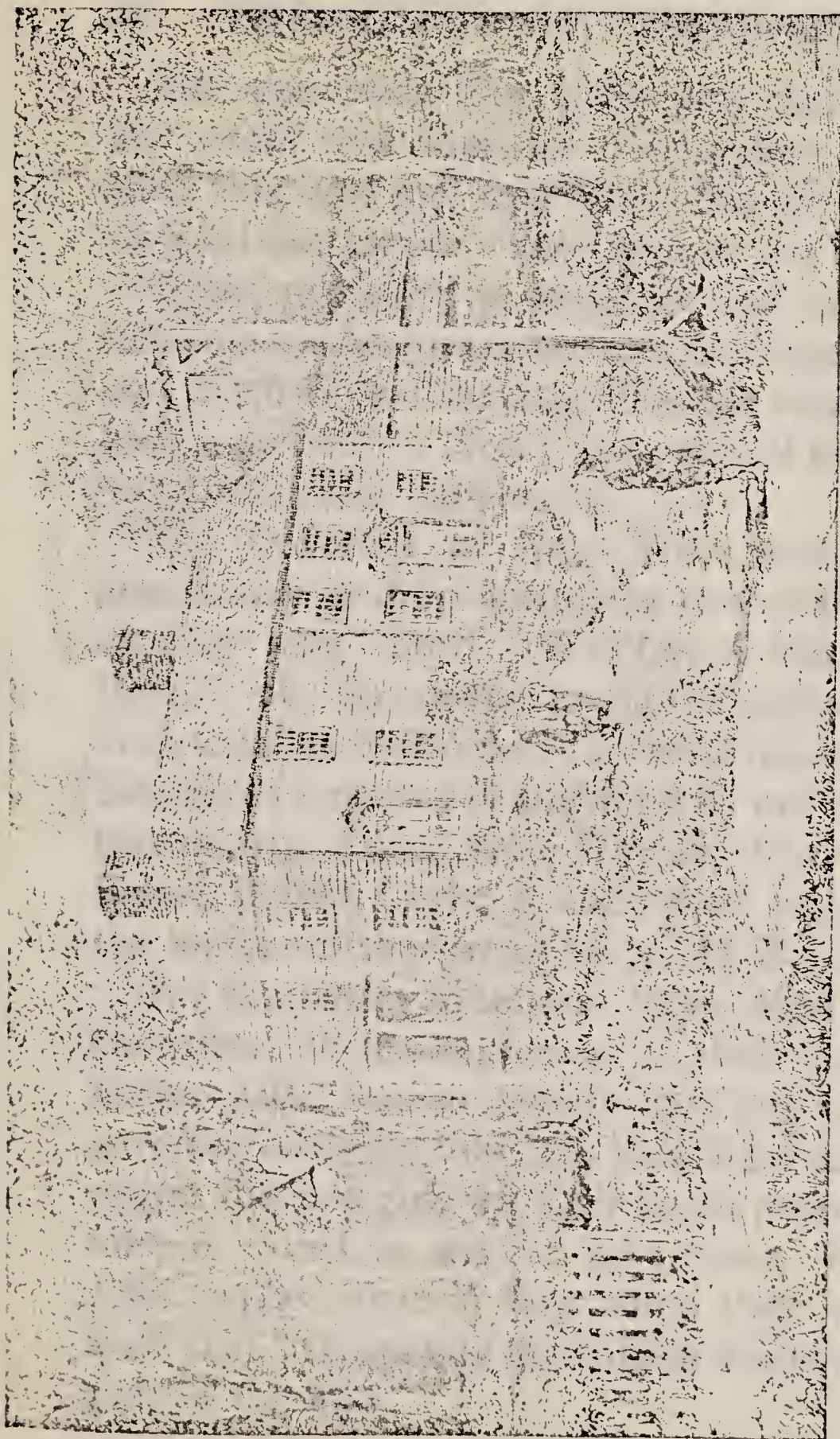
## 20 THE STORY OF VERMONT

mont were pretty angry about this. The men came together to decide what they should do. The chief settlement at that time on the western side of the State was at Bennington. In this place there was a tavern with a stuffed catamount fastened in front of it for a sign and it was called the "Catamount Tavern." At this tavern delegates from the other towns met and decided to send a petition to the King of England telling him that they had bought their land in good faith from the Governor of New Hampshire, that they had gone into the wilderness and by great toil built houses and cleared farms, and asking him to protect them. Until they had a reply from the King they decided that they would guard their homes themselves. This was the beginning of a government in our State.

The gangs of men from New York were told to go away, and if they did not go peacefully these early Vermonters made them go. Then the Governor of New York sent his sheriff and a band of men with guns to drive the Vermonters out from their homes, but the Vermonters had guns too, and told the sheriff that if he tried to take their lands they would fight.







Catamount Tavern, Bennington, Vermont.

From Crockett's "History of Vermont," by courtesy of the author.





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The men from New York who came with the sheriff saw that the Vermonters meant what they said and they knew that they were all good marksmen. They said to the sheriff: "We are not going to stay here and be killed for some speculators in the city; let them come and do their own fighting." So the sheriff too had to go back to New York and tell his governor what had happened.

The Governor of New York sent more armed men to drive away the Vermonters or, as they were called, "The Green Mountain Boys." He threatened to put in prison and even to kill any who dared to resist his officers. He offered a reward to any one who would capture Ethan Allen, Seth Warner, Remember Baker, Robert Cochran, and others who were the leaders of the Green Mountain Boys.

But the Green Mountain Boys stood firm. One time, at the beginning of their trouble, Ethan Allen was in Albany, and one of the governor's officers told him that if he and his people did not give up their lands peacefully soldiers would be sent to take them. Ethan Allen replied that if they came they would learn that "the gods of the valleys were not the gods of the hills."





The Green Mountain Boys refuse to give up their homes  
to the Yorkers.





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The Yorkers came and they learned what Ethan Allen had foretold. Up and down the whole western part of the State wherever the Yorkers entered they were met by the Green Mountain Boys and were driven back. There were no real battles fought, but there were a number of interesting small fights. We have not space in this short story of Vermont to tell about them, but in the larger histories of Vermont you may read about them and you will find it interesting reading too. If it had not been for the bravery of these sturdy Green Mountain Boys there probably would have been no Vermont to-day.

By and by the King of England sent word to the Governor of New York that the Green Mountain Boys must not be driven from their homes. But the King of England was far away across the ocean, the Governor of New York and the speculators in New York were determined to get this land, so they sent excuses to the King and kept up the warfare. But their men were always driven back by the Green Mountain Boys.

Finally the Governor of New York went to the British General in New York City and asked him to send some of his regular soldiers





to drive out the Green Mountain Boys. The British General replied that he would not use his soldiers to help the governor to disobey the King.



## CHAPTER III

### WAR WITH ENGLAND

If you will look at the map of Vermont in your geography you will see that the Green Mountains extend right through the middle of the State from the northern border to the southern. As a result of this the people who first settled on the eastern side of the mountains did not know those who settled on the western side as well as they did the people who lived south in the Massachusetts Colony. Besides we must remember that in these pioneer days there was no State of Vermont and therefore no State loyalty to draw the people together.

On the western side of the mountains the settlers from the different towns had united in order to better fight off the New Yorkers, but on the eastern side of the mountains things were, at first, much more peaceful. The New Yorkers realized that if they could not take possession of the land right next door it would be foolish for them to try to take possession on the farther side of the mountain. So, for this reason, on the eastern side the terms of





transfer from New Hampshire to New York were made easy for the settlers, and the settlers in turn gave little attention to the struggle on the other side of the mountain.

This peace, however, did not last long. The pioneers who settled in Vermont were almost all New Englanders brought up under the New England form of government. We have read how they welcomed the signs of a new neighbor. As the number of houses grew the people were accustomed to come together and transact whatever business was necessary, to elect some one to look after the cows, which usually were all pastured together, another to look after the school, and so on. As long as the New Hampshire government received the payments as agreed upon with the settlers they gave no further attention to them, and each of these towns in Vermont became almost as independent as a little nation.

In the early days there was, of course, no telephone, no newspaper except one brought in once in a while by a traveller; there was no regular mail. There was hardly any money, and it was not needed, for each home raised its necessary food, while flax, wool, and the skins of wild animals furnished them clothing.



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If a man wanted help, his neighbors came and helped, and at other times he went and helped his neighbors. When a schoolhouse or a church was built the whole community worked to build it.

In a community where all the members depend on their own industry to get along, the people grow self-reliant and independent. These Vermonters when they gathered around a visitor to hear the news from Massachusetts and New York would make whatever comments they chose; the idea of concealing their thoughts probably never entered their heads.

Now in New York State the form of government was different. The townspeople did not elect the more important officers. They were appointed by the governor, and the townspeople were not allowed to say anything against them or against the governor or against the King of England. A few months after New York took over what is now Vermont, officers appointed by the Governor of New York began to appear in the towns on the eastern side of the State. When the townspeople protested against any of these officers they were informed that they were now under a new master and must obey his officers.





Therefore, in the autumn of the year 1774 we find the Green Mountain Boys on the western side of our State fighting the Yorkers, while on the eastern side there were no open fights of any consequence, but there was a growing anger against New York and the officers sent from there. Outside of Vermont the thirteen colonies were becoming more and more discontented with the rule of the King of England and his stupid councillors. In September the Continental Congress, made up of delegates from all the colonies, met in Philadelphia and voted among other things that until the King agreed to listen to the complaints of the colonies the people would no longer honor the King's courts.

All the colonies except New York agreed to this resolution. When the news of it reached the Green Mountains it was received with joy. These settlers realized now that if they allowed the King's servants from New York to hold court it would mean separating themselves from their friends in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and the other colonies and surrendering to their enemy the New Yorkers backed by the King of England.

The people in Vermont did not have the



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reasons to complain against the King of England that the colonies had, but everything that the Yorkers did was always said to be done in the name of His Majesty the King of England. The result was that the independent Green Mountain Boys were ready to kick out the Yorkers and the King of England too.

The event that was to place Vermont with the colonies in the War of the Revolution occurred at Westminster on the eastern side of the mountains in the spring of 1775. A New York judge was coming to the court-house at this place to open the court in the name of His Majesty the King of England. The people who lived in the vicinity of Westminster realized that it was up to them either to side with the Continental Congress by preventing the court from opening or to submit to the New Yorkers. They decided to prevent the court from opening.

When the sheriff heard about this he got together about sixty men and swore that he would lead this band to the court-house and kill any "damned rascals" who tried to interfere with the court. But when the sheriff arrived at the court-house the afternoon before the court was to open he was surprised to find





it filled with "damned rascals" who were not a bit frightened by his threats and curses.

In the evening the judge who was to hold the court arrived. He ordered the sheriff to take his men away and promised the men in the court-house that they would not be disturbed during the night and that in the morning he would hear their objections to opening the court. Trusting in the judge's word, most of the Green Mountain Boys left the court-house.

About midnight the sheriff and his band came back to the court-house. There were only a few defenders left, but they refused to allow the sheriff to enter. Thereupon the sheriff ordered his men to fire. Several of the defenders were wounded and two died later from their wounds, twenty were captured and locked with the wounded in the jail. A few escaped and told their friends what had happened.

The next morning the judge entered to hold court and the sheriff bragged how he had "scared the scoundrels." But as the morning wore on more and more men gathered in front of the court-house. The day before none of them had carried guns, but now many a gun



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could be seen in the crowd of earnest men. The sheriff's men became more and more frightened. Some tried to escape by jumping out of the back windows, but were captured by men outside.

The court-room was up-stairs, and part of the first floor was used as a jail. The sheriff and judge were up-stairs in the court-room. They saw the men enter below and let the prisoners out of jail. When the wounded were found the crowd wanted to go up-stairs and take revenge on the judge, sheriff, and his followers. However, order was restored. Later all in the court-room were arrested and the judge, sheriff, and some others were sent to Northampton, Mass., for trial. The Governor of New York finally was able to free them.

Now the die was cast. The people in a little town of what is now Vermont had defied the Governor of New York and the King of England. As the news spread up and down the State the loyal settlers all agreed that, come what might, they would stand by their neighbors. Some Green Mountain Boys from Bennington crossed the mountains to welcome the east side in the struggle against the Yorkers.







Map of Vermont.

From Crockett's "History of Vermont," by courtesy of the author.





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A few weeks later even more serious news was spread from settlement to settlement. Down at Lexington and Concord, near Boston, the farmers had fought with the King's troops and had driven them back into Charlestown. There was no mistaking the meaning of this—it meant war.

Some of the Green Mountain Boys upon learning the news of Lexington and Concord took down their guns and started to join the army of Americans that was gathering around Boston. Others were enlisted in a campaign to drive the British from Lake Champlain.

If you will look at your map again you will see that Lake Champlain, Lake George, and the Hudson River just about cut off the New England States from the rest of the country. Ethan Allen and others knew that if the British troops held this line the colonies would be cut in two. Therefore, they resolved to capture part of this line.

The most important post on Lake Champlain was Fort Ticonderoga. To capture it two things were necessary: speed and secrecy. If the British should learn that an attack was being planned and should send a large army there it would be impossible for any army the





Green Mountain Boys could raise to capture the fort.

1770944

Therefore, Ethan Allen, Seth Warner, and other leaders sent a number of messengers up and down the western side of the State to call at all the farmhouses and settlements and order the men to meet at Castleton at once. Mile after mile these brave messengers, some on horseback and others on foot, taking shortcuts through the woods, climbing steep mountains, swimming rivers, spread from settlement to settlement the summons from their leaders.

About one hundred and eighty men responded to the call and met at Castleton. In the meantime one of the Green Mountain Boys, Noah Phelps, had visited Fort Ticonderoga and learned that no attack was suspected and there were less than fifty soldiers left to defend the fort. Ethan Allen realized that if once they could get into the fort they could capture it.

On the night of May 9 the little band marched to Shoreham. Across the lake was Fort Ticonderoga. They had but a few boats, and as morning began to dawn less than half the little army had crossed. Ethan Allen



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dared not wait. Seth Warner was left to get the others across as soon as possible and Allen and Benedict Arnold, who had come from Connecticut to join the expedition, led the troops to the fort.

Day was breaking as they reached the walls. A British sentry aimed at Allen, but his gun failed to fire. Silently and quickly the Green Mountain Boys broke through the gate and rushed into the fort. Then with a loud yell they awoke the sleeping soldiers. The British rushed out, only to find the Green Mountain Boys waiting for them with loaded guns and orders to surrender. The British commander, Captain Delaplace, had not suspected an attack and asked Allen by what right he ordered him to surrender. Allen replied: "In the name of the great Jehovah and the Continental Congress."

On the morning of May 10, 1775, Fort Ticonderoga was taken without the firing of a single gun or the loss of a life. Allen, Warner, and Arnold were not the kind of men to waste their time in rejoicing. Seth Warner captured Crown Point, and Allen and Arnold fitted up a fleet of boats and drove the British off the lake to St. Johns, in Canada.







Ethan Allen replied: "In the name of the Great Jehovah and the Continental Congress."

The victory of the Green Mountain Boys placed the New Yorkers in an awkward position. Only a few months before they had been calling Ethan Allen, Seth Warner, and



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the rest of the Green Mountain Boys every bad name they could think of. Now these same men were national heroes and had been publicly thanked by the Continental Congress.

A change was taking place in New York. The King, the governor, and his followers were losing control of the people, and the men who took their places were friends of the Revolution. These men offered to postpone their differences with the Green Mountain Boys and to allow them to enlist five hundred men and elect their own officers.





## CHAPTER IV

### THE WAR IN VERMONT

In July, 1775, a number of leaders among the Green Mountain Boys met at Dorset and chose Seth Warner for commander of their soldiers. Most of the men at that convention felt that the colonies could not possibly win the war against England unless all of them set aside for the time their quarrels with each other and united against the enemy. Therefore they were in favor of postponing the settlement of their differences with New York State until after the war.

Others in the convention were not so sure that this was the best plan. They said: "We may call ourselves a colony, but New York claims that we are just a part of the colony of New York. The other thirteen colonies have representatives in the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, we have none and maybe we will not be allowed to have any."

They also pointed out that the enemy who had tried to drive them out of their homes or force them to pay for them again was not England, but New York State. They were



willing, they said, to fight for freedom just as their friends in Massachusetts and the other colonies were fighting for freedom, but they thought that first they had better make sure that a victory over England would give them freedom.

"Suppose," they said, "that the colonies win the war. New York will then be one of the most powerful members of the new nation. She will claim that our colony is no colony at all but merely a part of her territory. If we are not allowed to have any representatives in the new Congress to oppose this claim most likely the Congress will decide in favor of New York. Then the Yorkers, backed by all the other colonies, will come over and take our lands away from us. On the other hand, England has told the Yorkers that they must not drive us out of our homes. Before we give our lives and our money to fight England hadn't we better make sure whether we are fighting for freedom or for a worse tyranny than we now have?"

Most of the delegates, however, did not share this feeling. They felt that their friends in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire for whom they were fighting would





help them to get their "just rights." So the matter was left.

The Green Mountain Boys continued to do their full share in the war against England. The regiment was raised and, under command of Colonel Seth Warner, helped to keep the British from Lake Champlain.

Ethan Allen had expected to be elected commander of this regiment and was very much disappointed. Still, he stayed with the army that was fighting in Canada under command of General Montgomery. General Montgomery was anxious to capture the city of Montreal. Ethan Allen had the idea that he could capture the city by a bold and sudden attack just as he had captured Fort Ticonderoga. So, without consulting his commander, he made the attempt. There is every reason to believe that he would have succeeded if another officer who had promised to assist him had done his part. As it was, he failed; his little army was surrounded by the British, and Ethan Allen was captured. He was kept a prisoner for two years, until General Washington was able to get the British to give him up in exchange for a British officer whom the Americans had captured.



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A few weeks after the surrender of Ethan Allen the American army captured Montreal. Then they moved on to the city of Quebec. This was a much more difficult place to take than Montreal. Benedict Arnold led an army through Maine to help General Montgomery. They had a terrible trip through the Maine woods; most of their food was lost when the boats tipped over in the rapids of the rivers; they suffered from both cold and hunger, and many died. It was an exhausted army that finally reached Montgomery near Quebec, and if it had not been for the courage and example of Benedict Arnold probably most of them would have perished.

It was December when the two armies met. The soldiers were suffering so much from the cold that Montgomery and Arnold decided that they should try to capture the city at once. Early on the morning of December 31 in a blinding snow storm they made the assault.

The city was protected by steep cliffs and on top of these were strong forts. The Americans bravely climbed up the cliffs and attacked the forts. They fought like heroes, but in vain; they could not capture the forts. General Montgomery was killed. Arnold and





the other officers realized that it was impossible to win the victory and retreated.

Arnold was now in command of the little army and continued to blockade the city the rest of the winter. In the spring he hoped for more soldiers and a second and more successful attack on the city. But when spring came most of the new soldiers came to the British side and, worse still, smallpox broke out in the American camp. Many Green Mountain Boys went north to help their suffering comrades, but all they could do was to hold the British back long enough to enable the sick, weary men to reach Lake Champlain, where boats carried them back down the lake to Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga.

Here there was no time for rest. The Americans knew that the British would come down Lake Champlain in ships to capture this fort. So, while some took care of the sick and made the fort ready for defense others cut down trees, sawed them up, and built ships. By hard work in the face of great obstacles a small fleet of fifteen ships was prepared. Benedict Arnold was put in command of this fleet and in October went north to meet the enemy. The British had thirty-one fighting ships and



were much better armed than the Americans. Besides, on the British ships were experienced sea fighters, while most of Arnold's men had never seen a naval battle.

The two fleets met near Valcour Island, in the northern part of the lake, and fought until dark. In spite of the heavy odds against them the Americans held the British ships off. But at night the American ships were surrounded, and in the morning the British expected to capture them. Arnold did not wait for morning. Silently in the night he led his little fleet out of the trap. In the morning the British pursued and Arnold was forced to run his ships aground near where Otter Creek empties into the lake and set them on fire. However, he had accomplished his purpose; Fort Ticonderoga was saved.

The British entered Crown Point, which the Americans had already abandoned, but they did not attack Ticonderoga. After some delay they sailed back to Canada for the winter.

This is the last time Benedict Arnold appears in the history of Vermont. In this naval battle he proved himself to be a brave and skilful leader. Time after time, when the men around a cannon were frightened and ready







The two fleets met in the northern part of the lake and fought until dark.

to give up, Arnold helped them to reload the cannon and coolly aim it against the enemy. On the battlefield of Saratoga he again displayed his great bravery. If on that field the



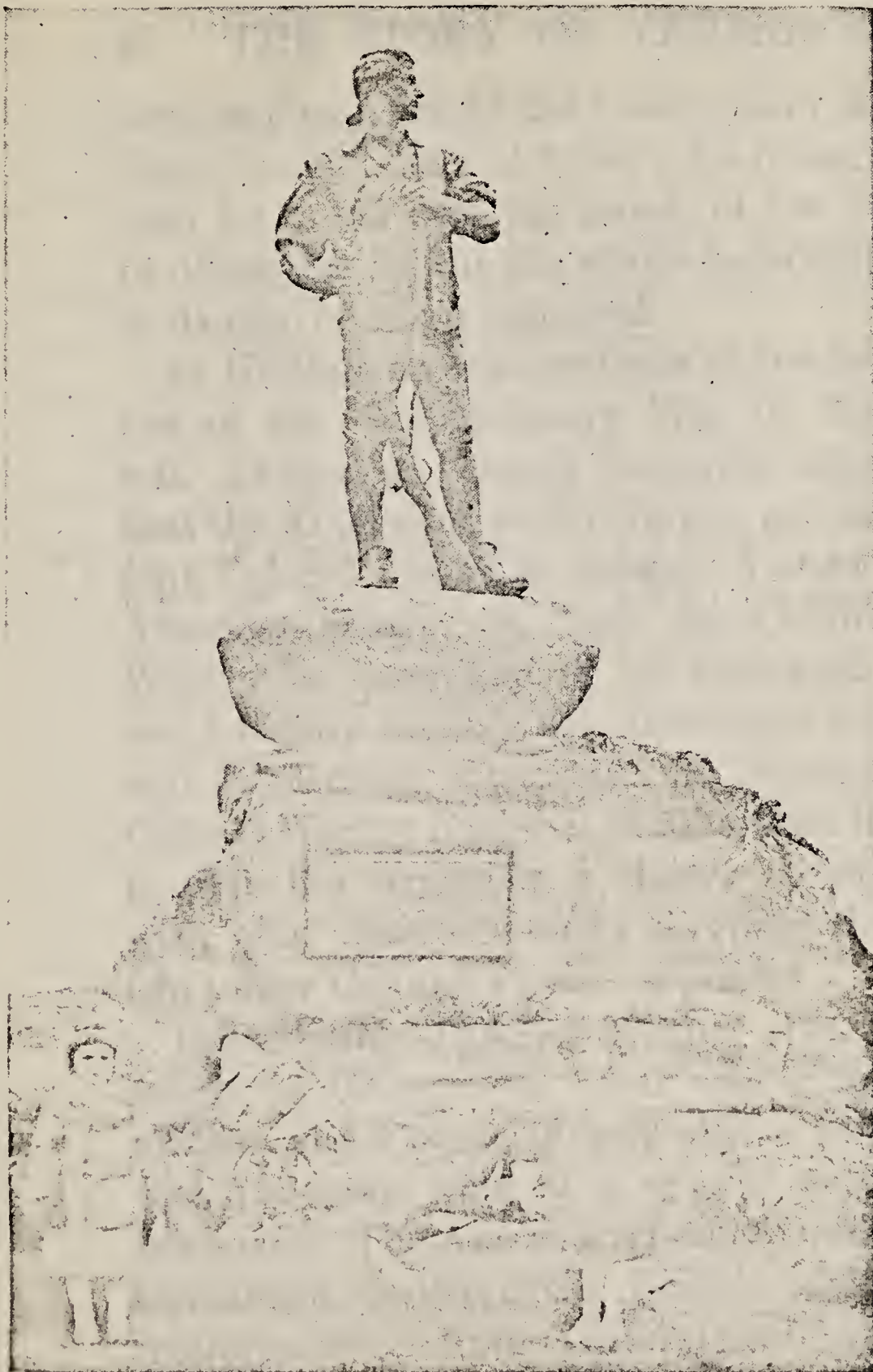
British bullet that hit his knee had hit his heart we would to-day honor him as one of the greatest generals of the American army in the Revolutionary War. After one has read the whole story of Benedict Arnold he is more inclined to weep for him than to scoff at his name.

The next spring (1777) the British appeared on Lake Champlain with a larger force than the year before. They were now ready to do just what Ethan Allen had tried to prevent when he captured Fort Ticonderoga: cut New England off from the other colonies. General Burgoyne was the commander of the new British forces, and they expected to march to Albany, N. Y., where another British general, Sir Henry Clinton, was to come up from New York City to meet them.

There was no American fleet to fight the British this year, and they went straight to Fort Ticonderoga. The American in command of the fort, General St. Clair, soon found that he could not hold the fort and late one night in the darkness he withdrew his forces. General St. Clair hoped to have his soldiers several hours ahead of the British before his retreat was discovered, but as the last troops







Monument to Green Mountain Boys at Rutland, Vermont.  
From Crockett's "History of Vermont," by courtesy of the author.



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were leaving a bright fire broke out in the fort. Some one had decided to burn his house rather than let it fall into the hands of the British. In doing this he put the whole American army in danger of being captured.

At Hubbardton occurred one of the two battles of the Revolutionary War on Vermont soil. As soon as General Burgoyne discovered that the Americans were trying to get away, he sent Colonel Fraser in pursuit of them. The American general, St. Clair, put Colonel Seth Warner in command of his rear-guard. All one hot July Sunday the Americans retreated and the British advanced. On Sunday night Colonel Warner halted at Hubbardton in order to give the stragglers a chance to catch up with him. Early Monday morning the British, under Colonel Fraser, appeared.

Immediately Colonel Warner sent a messenger to General St. Clair asking for more soldiers and Colonel Fraser sent a messenger with the same kind of a request to General Burgoyne. The Americans fought bravely and threatened to drive the British back, when reinforcements from General Burgoyne arrived.

Still the Americans held their ground, ex-





pecting every minute to hear the cheers of soldiers from General St. Clair. But no soldiers came.

After several hours of fighting, Colonel Warner, realizing that his brave army could not hold out much longer, resolved to try a trick. His plan was to have about one hundred of his men draw back, march through the woods, and attack one side or flank of the British. He thought that when the attack was made his own men would think the long-looked-for reinforcements had arrived, and possibly the British, thinking so too, would decide to retreat. But he had only about eight hundred soldiers, and when the others saw one hundred start to leave the line, they thought that they were giving up. This started a panic, and soon the whole army was running away from the advancing British.

The army under General St. Clair reached Fort Ann and from there retreated still farther south and finally halted at Saratoga. You may imagine that the people in Vermont felt pretty much discouraged. Two years ago they had driven the British back into Canada; now the British were capturing almost the whole western side of the State.



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But, although General Burgoyne and his army were victorious, several things worried the British general. He had expected that the people of Vermont, because of their quarrel with New York State, would go over to his side, but most of the Vermonters were loyal. Then the Indians he had taken with his army caused him a lot of trouble and were of little help. He had thought that when the Vermonters knew he had Indian warriors it would frighten them so much that they would join his army for protection. On the contrary, whenever the Indians raided a home and killed women and children, it made the other settlers the more determined to fight him. Besides, he knew well enough that when the news of these Indian killings reached England men like Burke, Pitt, and Fox would stand up in the British Parliament and denounce him for hiring such brutal warriors. Worst of all, because the American army had caused him so many delays and the people in the country had either destroyed or carried away their cattle and grain, the food supply for his army, when finally he reached the Hudson River, was low.

General Burgoyne learned that the Ameri-





cans had stored a lot of supplies at Bennington and he resolved to seize these. So he sent to capture them a Colonel Baum with a number of soldiers, mostly Hessians, who had been hired from Germany to come to America and fight for England. Colonel Baum arrived a few miles west of Bennington on August 15. He learned that the alarm had been given and that men were coming in from all around to protect the town. Therefore he decided to have his soldiers dig intrenchments to protect them in case the Americans attacked, and sent a messenger to General Burgoyne asking for more soldiers.

John Stark, with a company of soldiers from New Hampshire, was in command of the Americans at Bennington. With him was Colonel Warner, who was sending out messages to all the Green Mountain Boys urging them to hasten to Bennington. The Green Mountain Boys responded loyally. Every few minutes all through the night, in the rain and darkness, could be heard the shouts announcing the arrival of new parties.

Though it rained all the night of the 15th, General Stark realized that it would be dangerous for him to wait in Bennington until more



troops came to the British. So early on the morning of the 16th he led his army out in front of the British lines. A queer looking army it was, a few of the men had uniforms, the farmers carried all kinds of guns and were covered with mud from their long tramp in the rain. However, Stark trusted them.

The sun was shining in a clear sky as he stepped in front of his army and said: "Boys, there are the enemy; we will capture them or to-night Molly Stark will be a widow."

Then began a hard fought battle. The Hessians held their fortress against attack after attack by the Americans. But the Americans never gave up. They surrounded the fortress.

At last the Hessians attempted to escape by charging through the Americans. They did not get through, Colonel Baum was killed and the Hessians who were not killed or wounded surrendered.

The battle over, the Americans became more like a victorious crowd after a baseball game than an army. The officers could not keep them in order. Suddenly, while all were shouting and rejoicing, guns were heard to the westward, then scouts arrived with the news that a new British army was coming on the double







General Stark sends word for the Green Mountain Boys to hurry.

quick. It was the reinforcements that Colonel Baum had sent for.

It looked as though the hard earned victory was to be lost, for the Americans were not and could not be put in order to fight before the arrival of the British. But when things looked the darkest, guns were heard to the rear of



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the Americans, and soon the news was brought that a force of Green Mountain Boys from Manchester was coming. General Stark sent word for them to hurry.

Tired out from marching all day in the hot sun, the troops nevertheless answered General Stark's messenger by pushing forward on the run. They arrived on the battlefield about the same time as the British. Fortunately most of them were trained soldiers, men who had fought with Warner at Hubbardton and were anxious to meet the British again.

They stopped the British attack and gave Stark and Warner time to re form their broken army. The two armies fought until dark, then the British line broke. The Americans pursued and took many prisoners; others were able to escape in the darkness.

With the exception of a few raids, this was the end of the fighting in Vermont. A few weeks later Burgoyne was forced to surrender at Saratoga and the active theatre of the war was shifted farther south.





## CHAPTER V

### STATESMANSHIP

There is a scene in the famous play "Richelieu" where the white-haired cardinal tries in vain to lift up the huge sword with which in his youth he had won many battles. He tells his page to put back the sword and as he lifts up his pen remarks:

"Beneath the rule of men entirely great  
The pen is mightier than the sword."

With all respect to the bravery of the valiant Green Mountain Boys, Vermont never could have become a State by the sword. But, as we shall see, the pen proved mightier than the sword.

In order to understand this chapter of the "Story of Vermont" it is quite important to have in mind a picture of our country as it was in the days of the Revolutionary War. There were thirteen colonies, or, as they called themselves later, States, extending from the mountains of New Hampshire to the rice and cotton



fields of Georgia. There were no trains, no hard-surface roads, no telephones or telegraph; it took longer to go from Boston to Philadelphia than it takes now to go from New York to San Francisco.

As a result of this the people of one colony knew very little about the people of the colony next to them and almost nothing at all about the people in the more distant colonies. All were united in their determination to be free from the tyranny of England and in order that they might act together each colony sent delegates to a congress at Philadelphia. This Continental Congress could tell each State how many soldiers it should furnish, how much money, how many supplies, but the States could obey just as much or as little as they pleased and Congress could do nothing about it.

It was this Congress that on July 4, 1776, published to the world the famous Declaration of Independence.

When the Green Mountain Boys read this famous paper they began to ask themselves "Where do we come in?" If they were not recognized as a colony they were not included in the Declaration of Independence.





They sent delegates to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia asking that they might be represented. But Congress was busy with the war with England, most of its members knew nothing about Vermont, and they took the word of the New York delegates that this petition came from a few dissatisfied mountaineers in the northeastern part of their State and was not worth considering. It is true that the delegates from the New England States generally were in favor of admitting Vermont, but they were in the minority, and even they did not consider it wise to offend such a powerful State as New York.

Of course, the Green Mountain Boys held another convention to consider the situation. They met first at Dorset, July 24, 1776. Some members were frightened and urged that they surrender to New York, others suggested that they declare themselves a part of New Hampshire and pronounce the edict of the King of England which had declared that they belonged to New York as of no effect. But the bolder members were in favor of forming an independent State until such a time as Congress would recognize them as a part of the United States.



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Before taking such a bold step it was decided that the delegates to this convention should go home and talk the matter over with the people in their respective towns. This they did and met again at Westminster in January, 1777. Evidently the people were in favor of independence, for the convention promptly voted to publish to the world that from that time forth the section known as the New Hampshire Grants declared itself to be a free and independent State. The first name adopted for the State was New Connecticut, but it was soon voted to change it to Vermont, a name made from the French words *vert* and *mont*, meaning green mountain.

The step having been taken, the next thing to do was to organize a State government. Up to this time the only government except that of the towns and the resolutions passed by the conventions was that from New York State. After the beginning of the war the authority of New York State almost disappeared.

At Windsor on the 2nd of July, 1777, the convention voted to accept the constitution written by its committee. While this convention was in session news was brought that





the British under Burgoyne had captured Fort Ticonderoga and were advancing south. It looked as if there might be no State for the new constitution. But the Vermonters, as we may now call the Green Mountain Boys, held to their purpose. They not only accepted the constitution but named the date for the first election of governor and members of the legislature and the day and place when the newly elected officials should meet. Then they left the convention to join their comrades in fighting the British.

At the election in the following March, 1778, Thomas Chittenden was chosen for the first governor. The new legislature met at Windsor in the same month. A strange problem confronted this legislature. Sixteen towns in New Hampshire bordering on the Connecticut River asked to be admitted as a part of the new State.

The legislature decided to adjourn in order to go home and learn what the people of the State thought of this proposition. They met again in June at Bennington and voted to receive the towns.

As you might expect, the New Hampshire people were very much upset by this arrange-



ment. They did not propose to have a whole slice of their State delivered over to Vermont. They immediately made a protest to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia.

Colonel Ethan Allen was sent to Philadelphia by Governor Chittenden of Vermont to discover how the Congress felt about the matter. Colonel Allen reported back that Congress was very much opposed to the action of Vermont, but he further reported that he had been told unofficially that Congress would accept Vermont as a new State if they would peacefully give back these towns to New Hampshire.

So the legislature met again and voted that the New Hampshire towns should not be a part of Vermont. As soon as this vote was announced these New Hampshire towns and several Vermont towns on the Connecticut River decided to form an independent State of their own. To add to the trouble, New Hampshire now laid claim to Vermont on the ground that the King of England's edict taking it from New Hampshire and giving it to New York was no longer valid because England was no longer ruler of the colonies.

Vermont had no one to speak for her rights





in the Continental Congress and it looked as if that body would decide to divide the State in two halves, giving the part east of the Green Mountains to New Hampshire and that west to New York. Then to add to the mix-up, Massachusetts claimed that if the former edicts of the King of England were no longer in force the southern part of Vermont belonged to her.

Here, in the words of the old song, "was a pretty how d'ye do." Vermont claimed she was an independent country, three States claimed all or part of her territory, and part of her people threatened to withdraw and form another new State. To make matters worse, Governor Clinton of New York encouraged the people in southern Vermont who favored New York to resist the Vermont officials. In order to defend her independence Vermont was forced to send a small army to this section under Ethan Allen to put down an insurrection.

Of course these affairs were taken to Congress again. Then Congress saw signs of a small war starting in Vermont when all its resources were needed to fight England. It postponed making any decision, and appointed a committee to investigate. The Vermonters





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understood what this delay meant. Congress intended to keep the matter under investigation until after the war with England. Then their State would be divided up, and they would be compelled by the whole United States to surrender their independence. Their case looked hopeless, for surely a few thousand Vermonters could not hope to resist the whole United States.

There was one thing she could do: she could declare herself an English colony and secure the protection of England. Some were in favor of this. They argued that under England they could keep their homes and farms, but if they belonged to New York the Yorkers would come again to take them and this time there would be no England to hold the Yorkers back.

The government of England appreciated the situation. After the defeat of Burgoyne her army had retreated to Canada, but she could raise a new army and invade New York and Vermont again. At this time, 1780, Washington and most of the American army had all they could do keeping one army of the British within New York City and fighting another army in the southern States. Washington would find it very difficult to raise a new army





to fight them in the north. But the English remembered that the Green Mountain Boys were brave fighters; they did not forget the Battle of Bennington.

If, however, the English could win the Vermonters over to their side it would be easy to march to Albany. The Green Mountain Boys, instead of fighting them, would help them; instead of tearing up the roads, they would clear them; instead of driving away all the cattle and destroying all the grain they could not carry away, they would bring food to the army.

So the English began secretly to send letters to prominent Vermonters. In these letters they promised Vermont an almost free government. Now Ethan and Ira Allen and others who knew of these letters knew perfectly well that in spite of all their troubles most of the Vermonters were loyal and would never think of betraying their country. But if they sent back a sharp refusal to England her army might march into Vermont, and with but little hope of help from Washington, they would not be able to keep it back alone. Besides, they thought that, if the members of Congress, who would not admit that there was any State of Vermont and were planning to divide it up



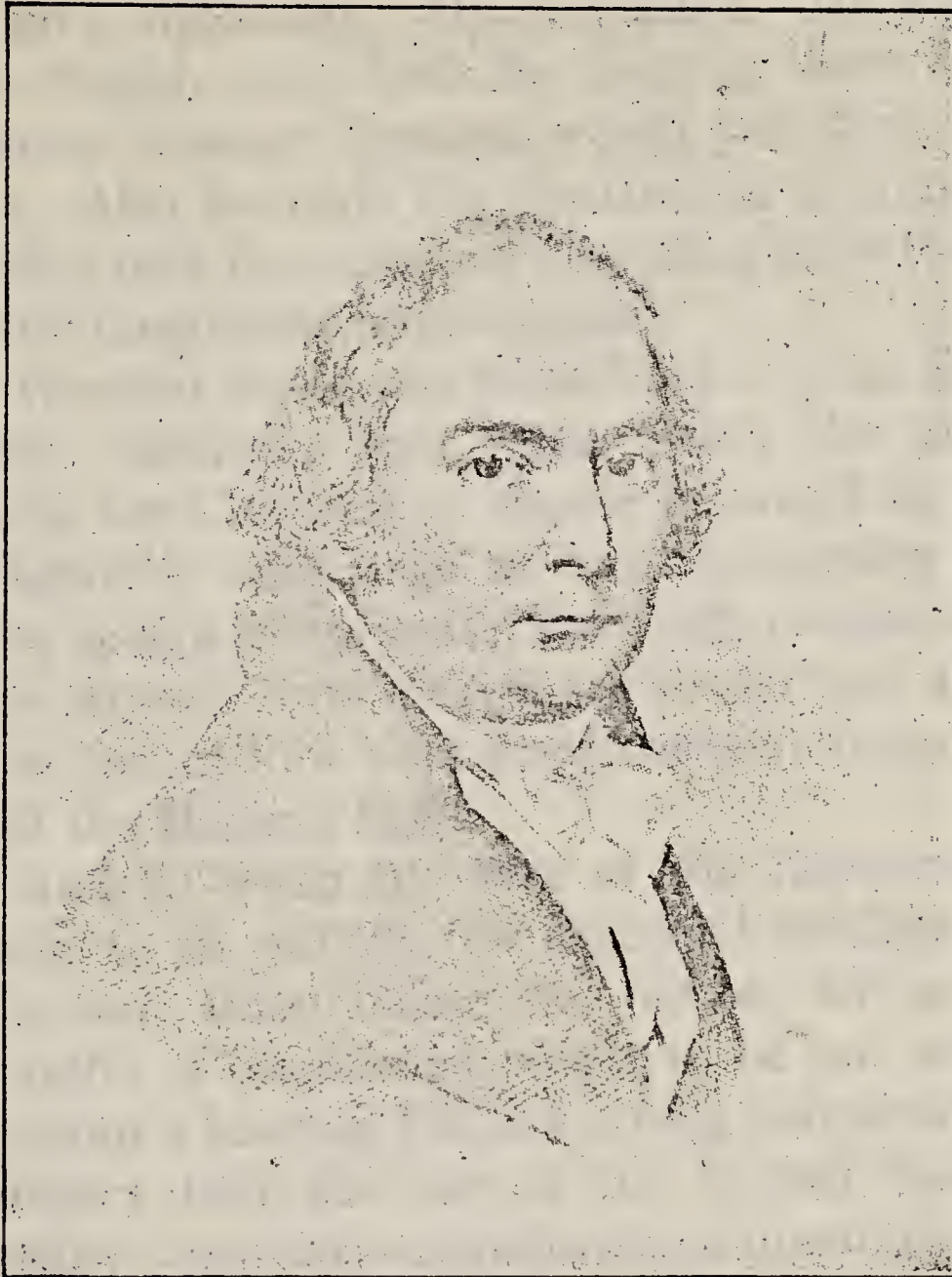
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among its neighbors, realized that Vermont probably held it in its power to give England the victory in the war, they would take the Vermont petitions more seriously. So they sent copies of these letters from the English to Congress and they made replies to England that didn't say that they would or that they would not.

These Vermonters were now treading on very dangerous ground, and it is due largely to the ability of Ira Allen that they succeeded. Ira Allen knew perfectly well that if the people of Vermont thought he was planning to give the State over to the enemy they would denounce him as a traitor. On the other hand, he knew that if England became convinced that Vermont would remain loyal to the States her army would at once invade the new republic. It was not only the fate of Vermont that depended on him, but probably the success of the whole war with England. For one year, until the surrender of the British under Cornwallis at Yorktown, Va., in October, 1781, I believe it is safe to say that no man in America except Washington had a greater responsibility than Ira Allen. After the victory at Yorktown, Washington could rush his army north,







Ira Allen.

By courtesy of the University of Vermont.

and it was too late for the English army to invade Vermont.

We shall not recount the details of Ira



Allen's diplomacy. He succeeded. He held the British army back by keeping them uncertain whether Vermont would join them or not. Also he made the Continental Congress realize that Vermont was something more than a few dissatisfied mountaineers.

Vermont made one more bold step at this time. Realizing that when finally the time came for Congress to decide it would be to Vermont's advantage to have something to give up as a compromise, she boldly re-annexed the sixteen New Hampshire towns and also that part of New York State between Vermont and the Hudson River.

And so when the War of the Revolution came to an end the few thousand dwellers in Vermont stood before the nation, not as a handful of dissatisfied people to be put aside without a hearing, but as a strong independent country that had served the United States loyally. And this was done not so much by the sword as by the pen.





## CHAPTER VI

### AFTER THE WAR

In October, 1780, there were about three hundred persons living in the town of Royalton. There were two small villages but most of the people lived in farmhouses. Early one morning as the men were leaving to work in the barns and fields, several hundred Indians suddenly rushed out of the woods toward the houses. The men did not have time to get their guns before these Indians were in the houses pulling over everything they contained. They picked out whatever pleased them and then set fire to the houses. Others set fire to the barns and either drove off or killed the live-stock.

The farmers separated from each other and, without guns, realized that they could not drive the Indians away and that to start fighting would only stir the Indians' blood, so that in place of stealing and burning there would be a terrible killing of women and children. So the Indians were allowed to take what pleased them and with twenty-five prisoners disappeared again into the woods.



Of course the alarm was spread to all the farmhouses in that section, and by night there was quite a company of men ready to follow after the Indians. They were able to tell which way the enemy had fled by the burning farmhouses the Indians left behind them. During the second night they came upon the Indians' camp and prepared to attack it. The Indians, however, sent one of their prisoners back to the Vermonters to warn them that if they attacked, all the prisoners would be killed instantly.

Many of the Vermonters had brothers, children and other close relatives among the prisoners. They spent the night discussing what they should do. When morning came the question was decided for them. The Indians with their prisoners had gone.

The Indians hurried north and were able to reach their boats on Lake Champlain before the pursuing farmers could come up to them. The next summer all the captives except one, who had died, were allowed to return home, where they arrived safely and none the worse for their experience. Two were killed at the time of the raid and much necessary property was destroyed.





The Indian trouble soon blew over but Vermont had other troubles that did not show any signs of disappearing. In our last chapter we told how Vermont had annexed to her territory the New Hampshire towns on the Connecticut River and part of New York State east of the Hudson River. As a result of this, New Hampshire threatened to call out soldiers to drive the Vermont officials out of the towns taken from her. New York went further, and actually raised an army and sent it into the disputed territory. In reply Vermont sent soldiers to meet them, and for a time it looked as if there would be war between New York and Vermont even before the war with England was finished.

George Washington, commander-in-chief of the American army, realized that here was a most serious situation. He wrote a letter to the Governor of Vermont, Thomas Chittenden, in which he said that he believed that if Vermont would voluntarily give up her claims on the towns that were formerly parts of New York and New Hampshire Congress in turn would recognize Vermont as a new State.

Vermonters were gradually losing faith in the Congress; they had been put off too many





times, but they did believe in George Washington. So when Governor Chittenden presented Washington's letter to the legislature it was promptly voted to follow his advice and to appoint delegates to ask in return that the State be recognized by Congress. These delegates fared no better than the many others who had been sent before. The matter was referred to a committee, and for one reason or another Congress took no action.

The people of Vermont were getting pretty well worked up over this treatment. Although Congress had not admitted them as a part of the United States during the war, they had not hesitated to do their full share toward winning the victory. By their skilful diplomacy they had protected the northern border of the country while Washington had all he could attend to in the South. In order to prevent civil war, they had taken Washington's advice and given up extra territory against the wishes of most of the people who lived in this territory, and in return for all of this they received nothing from Congress.

To make matters worse, a number of Yorkers in the southern part of the State thought that because Vermont had given up her claims





in New Hampshire and New York the government must be losing its courage. Most of these Yorkers lived in Guilford, which, at that time, was the largest village in the State, having over three thousand people. They agreed among themselves to refuse to obey any Vermont officials and if the Vermonters tried to make them obey they agreed to fight.

This revolt did not last very long. Governor Chittenden promptly sent Ethan Allen, with a company of soldiers, to Guilford, and the Yorkers very soon learned that Vermont had lost none of its courage.

These Yorkers, after their defeat, complained to New York, which in turn made complaint against Vermont to the Continental Congress. Then Congress sent a message to Vermont blaming its government for enforcing its own laws and threatening to force it to pay for all damage done to the Yorkers.

This was the last straw. The general opinion of Vermonters after this message became known was that they would rather be an independent State than live under such government as the Continental Congress. As for the threats, Vermonters knew that, after following his advice, General Washington would not lead



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an army against them, and without Washington they knew Congress could not raise an army.

Here is a most surprising situation. In the darkest days of the Revolutionary War, when Washington's small army was starving and freezing at Valley Forge, when it seemed that in the spring England could easily win the war and would then punish all who had dared resist her, in those dark days Vermont begged to be admitted as one of the rebelling States, willing to stand or fall with the others. Then after the war was won and the English army had been removed Vermont decided she would rather not be a part of the victorious United States.

To understand the reason for this we must remember that before the war the colonies had very little to do with each other. They were like thirteen little nations and not very friendly nations either. New England, for example, was settled largely by the Puritans who in the old country had fought and hated the Cavaliers. Cavaliers had settled in Virginia. In those days of poor roads and stage-coaches very few persons from one State visited another. As a result the only tie that





held the colonies together was their determination to be free from the tyranny of England.

In order to fight England the colonies sent delegates to a Continental Congress and made an agreement among themselves called the Articles of Confederation. The chief weakness of the Articles of Confederation was that, while its Congress could make laws, it had no means of enforcing its laws.

After the surrender of the English the tie that held together the colonies, or States, as they were now called, was broken. Each State declared it would run its own affairs and would not allow any outsider to interfere. The Continental Congress owed millions of dollars and had no money even to pay the soldiers before they were discharged. It asked the States for money and the States replied that they had debts of their own to pay. The result was that all the paper money Congress had issued became worthless. When any one wanted to emphasize that a thing was of no value he would say "it wasn't worth a continental." Continental was the name given to the money issued by the Continental Congress.

The soldiers who had fought through the war returned to their neglected farms with



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little money. Many had borrowed money expecting to return it out of their pay. The people who had loaned the money demanded it back, and the State put on heavy taxes to pay its debts. In order to collect these taxes and debts the sheriffs, at the orders of the courts, began to take what few things of value the ex-soldiers had left. This action caused many riots. Even in Vermont on two occasions a crowd of people surrounded the courthouse and tried to break up the court.

But in Vermont things were not as bad as they were in the rest of the country—in fact, Vermont was prospering. Thousands of good people, disgusted with the quarrels between the States, came to live in this independent country. Taxes were light, the government was economical, and efficient. Little hamlets grew rapidly into large towns, forests were cleared for farms, roads constructed, and money issued. As the Vermonters looked at the conditions in other States they had good reasons to be thankful that they were out of it.

As things grew better in Vermont they grew worse in the States. Not only did they refuse to work together but they even began to fight each other. In western Pennsylvania there





was actual bloodshed between settlers from Connecticut and the militia of Pennsylvania. New York made farmers from New Jersey just across the river pay a tax in order to sell chickens or garden stuff in the city just as if New Jersey were another country. In Massachusetts there was, for a time, a real rebellion against the government led by a man named Shay.

In Europe it was expected that some of the States would soon appeal to England to take them back. And at times some States threatened to do this. If the United States tried to make a peace treaty with any other nation, its representatives were asked if there was one nation or thirteen.

However, there were big unselfish men in the United States, and a number of these from all the States finally came together in Philadelphia. But even of these many were afraid to do anything that might offend the narrow prejudices of the people. In answer to their fears, George Washington rose from his chair and said solemnly:

"If to please the people we offer what we ourselves disapprove how can we afterward defend our work? Let us raise a standard to



which the wise and the honest can repair, the event is in the hand of God."

The convention followed the advice of its great chairman and the result, after weeks of hard labor, was the Constitution of the United States. But the work of these men was only begun. The people of the States were prejudiced, selfish, disappointed at the results of the war, embittered against their neighbors. They had to be persuaded to put all that aside. No general in any war fought with more skill, vigor and courage than did Washington, Hamilton, Jay, Madison, Ames, Marshall and others in behalf of the Constitution.

As a result of the work of these men a better and more friendly sentiment prevailed with the people. A striking example of this was the settlement between New York and Vermont. For years the legislature of New York had been threatening the people of Vermont, and this had helped to keep alive the hatred between the two States. As a result there were frequently small, rather disgraceful fights between the Vermonters and New-Yorkers, and sometimes the quarrels ended in actual killing. But, influenced by the appeals that were being made to man's better nature, the





New York legislature decided that it would far rather be a friend to Vermont than a foe.

The legislature of Vermont was as prompt to meet New York's offer of friendship as it had been in years gone by to meet its threats. Four commissioners were appointed from each State. They discussed the differences between them and finally reached a satisfactory agreement. The quarrel that had separated these people for more than a quarter of a century was settled by eight men around a table.

The Constitution of the United States, after a long, hard struggle, had been adopted. The old Continental Congress was no more. In its place was a Federal Congress and at the head of the government, George Washington, the first President of the United States. Vermont, under the wise rule of Governor Thomas Chittenden, had been successful as an independent State but when its people read the new Constitution and saw Washington at the head of the new government their old desire to enter the Union became active again.

So, again delegates went from Vermont to ask for admission. This time there was no delay, no excuses. New York, its former foe, was the first to approve Vermont's request,



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and without one dissenting vote Vermont was made a part of the new great nation. The long struggle of the hardy Green Mountain Boys was crowned with success.





## CHAPTER VII

### THE BEGINNING OF PARTIES

The same year that Vermont became a part of the United States, 1791, an official count was made of the number of people in the State. It was found that, although thirty years before there had been scarcely 100 people in Vermont, the population, at that date, was 85,425. When the first pioneers entered the State they found that the river valleys were damp and often swampy, and also that the hardwood trees, the ashes of which were valuable for potash, grew upon the sides of the mountains. So the first homes were established along the mountain sides.

As a rule these early arrivals were content to live pretty much alone. They were brave, honest hard workers, lovers of freedom, although perhaps rather narrow, rough and ignorant of things that were not necessary to their daily work. All the education they cared for was enough to enable them to read and write and figure.

A few years later Vermont attracted people



who cared more for the things that make life beautiful, such things as higher education, music and art. These later arrivals preferred to settle in the valleys where it was easier to go from one place to another. They wanted beautiful churches, attractive schools. The pioneers on the mountains had little use for such things.

If, in the year 1793, you had stopped at a tavern in Williston, you might have been served a glass of rum or cider by the governor of the State. Governor Chittenden owned a large farm and kept a tavern where he frequently served those who called. If you had stayed the evening in the public room of the tavern you might have heard Vermonters talk about Ira Allen's offer of land and money to found the University of Vermont at Burlington. Or perhaps they would talk over the recommendation of the Board of Censors that there be a State Senate as well as a House of Representatives. Some would argue that with only one body of men many foolish laws had been passed that would have been prevented by a second body. Others would reply with the time-honored argument that what was, was good enough.





Vermont did not have a senate until more than forty years later. In the early government there was the governor and his council and the House of Representatives. In addition there was a Council of Censors that was elected every seven years, whose duty it was to see that all the State officials did their work properly and to recommend such amendments to the Constitution as seemed wise.

Most of the people were farmers. They raised sheep and made their clothes from the sheep's wool, they grew flax and made their linen from that. In those days very few people used cotton goods. Along Lake Champlain and the rivers there was a good deal of lumbering. In the middle-western part of the State marble had been found. Near Lake Champlain there were some iron mines.

Until about 1796 there was not much talk of politics, for almost every one in Vermont was satisfied with George Washington as President and Thomas Chittenden as Governor.

Vermonters had good reason to be satisfied with Governor Chittenden. In 1778, when Vermont set up an independent government, he had been elected as the first Governor and, with the exception of one year, he continued





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to be Governor until 1797, when he resigned because of old age. In those early days of Vermont, when her government was not recognized by the other States, a good many lawless people had entered the State. One of Governor Chittenden's first jobs was to make these people understand that they would have to obey the law in Vermont just as anywhere else. Under his wise leadership Vermont had become a prosperous, peaceful State of the Union.

In 1796 Washington was to finish his second term as President and it was well known that Governor Chittenden would not consent to be Governor again. With these two leaders out of the question two parties began to be formed in Vermont. They had been forming for some time in the rest of the nation. These parties differed with each other on the question of how much power the national government should have and how much should be left to the different States.

Before the Constitution was accepted each State had claimed to have almost all the powers of an independent nation and the national government had practically no power at all. The Constitution created a strong national or federal government. Those who favored





the Constitution were known as Federalists, those who opposed it Anti-Federalists.

Under the wise leadership of Washington, the people of Vermont generally became Federalists; that is, in favor of the Constitution. But when the question came up, as it often did, of whether on a certain question the authority should be given to the State or to the national government, some people said: "When in doubt decide in favor of the national government"; others said: "When in doubt decide in favor of the State government."

In George Washington's cabinet were two men who were generally recognized as the leaders on these two sides. For the national government was Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury, and on the States side Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State. Both were great men; America to-day is justly proud of both.

After President Washington withdrew the Federalists won the election and elected John Adams for President. This was in 1796, the year when Vermonters began to talk politics.

If you had visited one of the taverns at that time and had heard the people talk, you would



have found that most of them were on the Federalist side because it was the party of Washington, but some were on the Jefferson side, or the Republican-Democrat, as their party was called. The Republican-Democrats claimed that if the States kept giving up their authority to the federal government in a few years the people would find that they had no more rights than they had had under the government of England.

When people differ on politics they are quite likely to get angry with each other. In those days most of the people of the colonies were rougher in their speech than now and when they became excited over politics they were not careful to choose polite words. Even Washington had been called all kinds of names over matters connected with "Citizen" Genêt of France and the Jay Treaty. But Washington had been wise enough to take no official notice of it.

President Adams was not so patient as Washington. He thought that some of the things that were written in the papers were an insult not only to him but to the office of President and a danger to the country. Therefore after he had been President about two





years he had Congress pass a law forbidding the writing and publishing of attacks that made fun of the Government or would influence people not to respect it. This was called the Sedition Act.

This act was the great mistake of an otherwise able President. Up in the taverns of Vermont and all over the States the Republican-Democrats said: "I told you that in a few years the federal government would take away our rights. Now it is worse than I thought; England never passed a law forbidding people to say and write what they thought that was as bad as this one."

In Vermont this law caused more trouble than anywhere else because a Vermonter, Mathew Lyon, although not a man to be especially proud of, was a member of Congress for Vermont and was arrested for making insulting references to the President. His arrest made him seem a martyr for freedom of speech.

The one thing Vermonters always demanded was freedom. This law and the arrest of Lyon caused a large number not only in Vermont but all over the country to go over to the Republican-Democrat party. Thomas



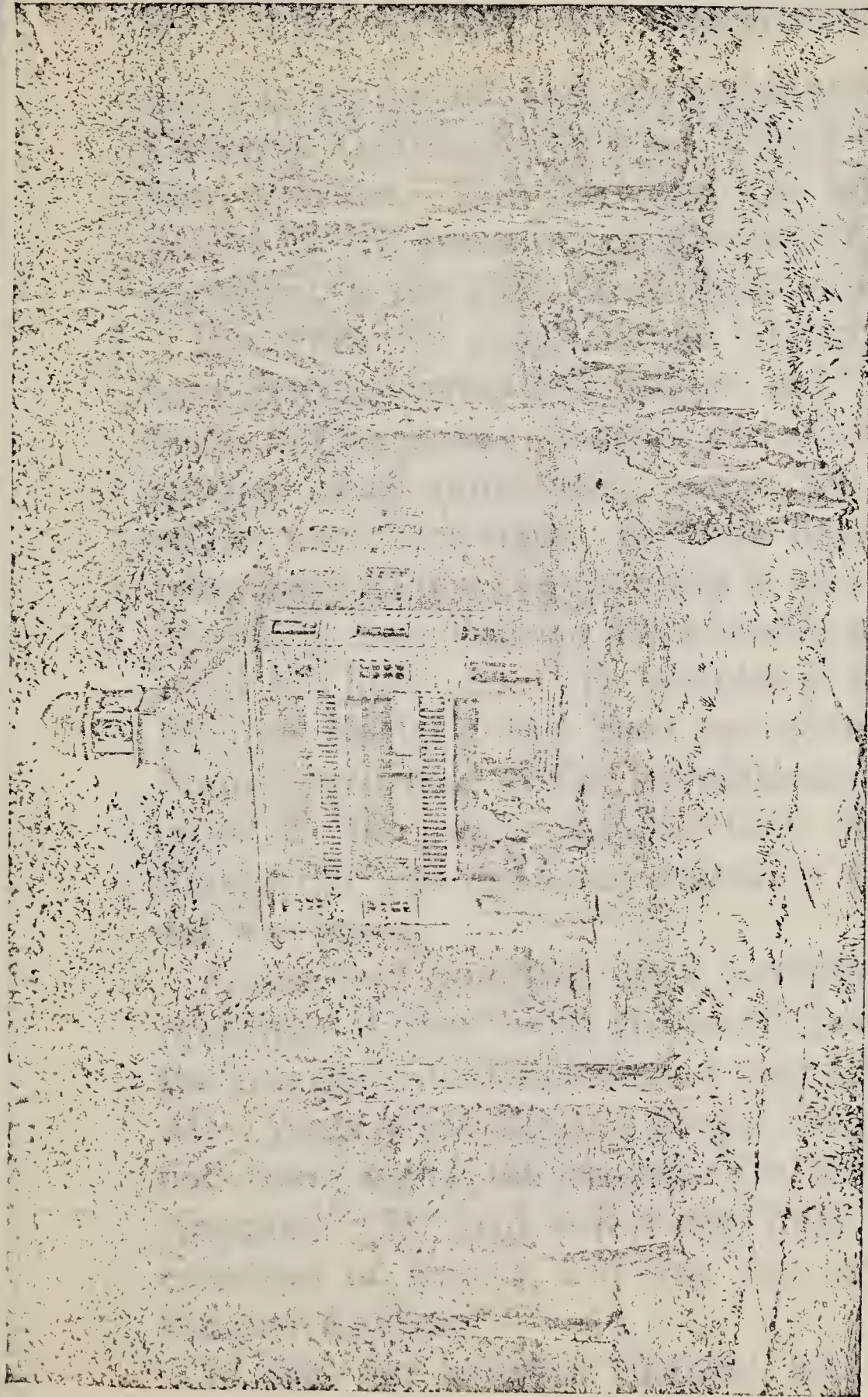
Jefferson, the head of this party, was not slow to take advantage of this protest. As a result when the Presidential election of 1800 came around Adams was defeated and Thomas Jefferson became the third President of the United States. In Vermont, as a result of this, there were two parties pretty evenly divided, with the party of Jefferson, or, as it was called later, the Democratic party, gradually winning.

The eight years from 1800 to 1808 were years of prosperous growth for Vermont. Her population increased rapidly. In addition to the common schools the larger towns built academies that took the place of high schools. For those who wanted to go to college there were Dartmouth just across the river in New Hampshire for the east side and the University of Vermont and Middlebury College on the western side of the State.

Up to this time the State had not had a capital city, but the legislature had met in different places and the governor's office was at his home. The people of Montpelier offered to build a home for the government officers if they would make Montpelier the capital. This offer was accepted. In 1808 the new build-







Old capitol, first capitol building, Montpelier, Vermont.

From Crockett's "History of Vermont," by courtesy of the author.





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ing was completed and the legislature, with Governor Galusha at its head, moved into its new quarters. This building was later replaced by the beautiful granite capitol building which is the pride of all Vermonters.

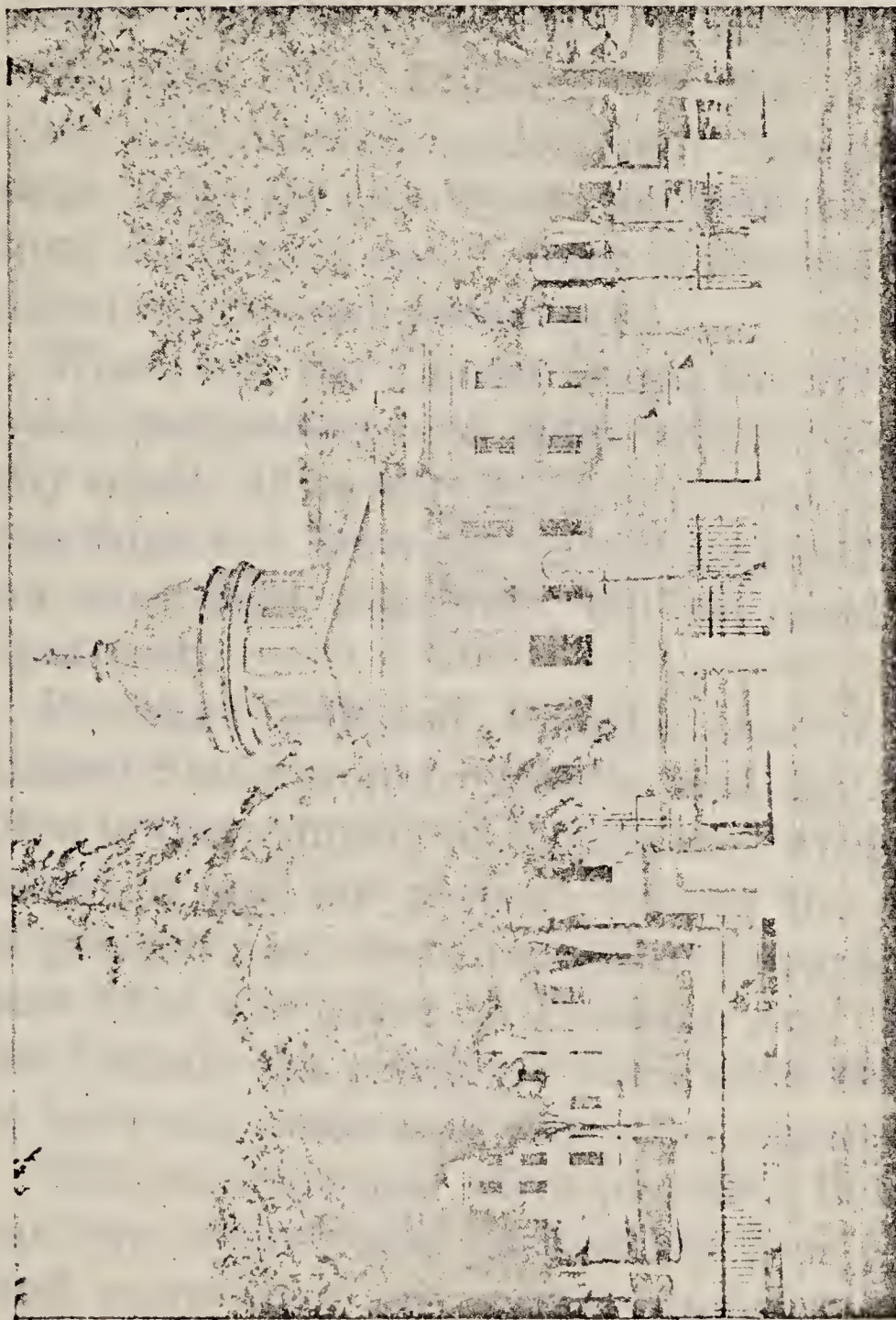
But while the people in the United States were getting excited over politics and building better homes, better churches and schools and getting along quite well, across the ocean affairs were very dark. In those days of no telegraph and few papers, when it took a long time to go any distance, most people knew or cared but little about the troubles in Europe. Because England had been our enemy and France our friend in the Revolutionary War, most of the people decided that whatever France did was right and whatever England did was wrong.

France had gone through a terribly bloody revolution during which the people had killed the king and queen and most of their followers. After years of murder and famine the country had come under the control of a new ruler, Napoleon. He had conquered most of the countries of Europe and was now trying to conquer England.

In this war between England and France







State Capitol, Montpelier, Vermont.

From Crockett's "History of Vermont," by courtesy of the author.



both sides often captured American ships and stole the goods on board. Probably France stole more than England, but the English often stole American sailors from the captured ships under the claim that they were deserters from the English navy. Some of the men were deserters, but some were not.

What was the United States to do? We made protests to both sides without getting any result. If we were going to protect American ships and American sailors it seemed as if we must fight somebody, but we could not fight both.

President Jefferson thought that if the United States would refuse to send any supplies to the countries of Europe they would be forced to heed our protests without the need of going to war. So he persuaded Congress to pass what was called an Embargo Act. This law forbade the people of the United States to have any trade with any other country.

This act went into effect in 1808. It hurt our own country and particularly New England more than any other country. New England had developed a big ship-building industry. Because of the war in Europe her ships were busy carrying goods all over the





world. By this act the shipyards were idle and the ships rotted at the wharves.

In Vermont there had been an active trade with Canada. When this was stopped a great many people were without work. There were so many people out of work everywhere that these people could not find any other jobs and so many of them began smuggling goods to and from Canada. This smuggling became so widespread that troops had to be sent to Vermont to stop it. There were a number of fights between smugglers and troops.

Thomas Jefferson hated war and he tried in every way to avoid it, but both England and France thought his efforts for peace were made because we were afraid to fight. Both nations played disgraceful tricks on America. When people are thrown out of work and then are insulted they are ready to fight. This was the situation in the United States when President Madison followed Jefferson.

But there was the question: Shall we fight France or England? Some said that Napoleon was a danger to the freedom of Europe and that if he succeeded in conquering England he would try to conquer America next. But most of the people thought France was our friend



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and England our enemy. Besides, Napoleon was more clever in his manner of robbing our people than the English.

So finally, when America became thoroughly angry, it was decided to declare war on England, although many good Americans felt war should have been declared on France. Thus in 1812 Vermont found herself again at war with her northern neighbor.





## CHAPTER VIII

### THE WAR OF 1812 AND AFTER

When the writer of this story was in school he read an interesting account of the biggest fight in the War of 1812, the battle of New Orleans. After reading how the British soldiers charged on the Americans' fortress again and again and were driven back each time and how on both sides brave and good men were killed, he was shocked to read at the end of the account that if there had been a telegraph in those days the battle never would have been fought. Peace had been made a few days before. Of course the men at New Orleans had no way of knowing this until weeks after when a sailing vessel reached America from Europe.

In reading history for this part of our story of Vermont, the author has been shocked again to learn that, if there had been a telegraph, probably there would have been no War of 1812 at all. The reasons why this is true do not form a part of our story of Vermont, but they indicate that war was not absolutely necessary and therefore why it was that many



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people were opposed to the war and why some usually loyal Americans in the northern New England States and in northern New York traded with the enemy.

In the first years of the nineteenth century a large number of families moved into northern Vermont. They bought a piece of land, cut off the trees, built their cabins, and planted crops a good deal as the early pioneers in other parts of Vermont. By 1808 these people were just beginning to be prosperous. In Canada were the large cities of Montreal and Quebec, and these cities bought milk products, meat, wool, lumber, and potash from the farmers in northern Vermont.

Suddenly without any good reason, as these Vermonters thought, they were told they could not sell anything more to people in Canada. This was the Embargo Act. Many of these farmers had borrowed money to buy cows and sheep, and now they could not sell their cows, their milk products, their wool, nor any other things. There were no large cities in Vermont, there were no railroads to take these things to cities like Boston and New York, so the farmers simply could not sell them at all.

Soon these farmers had more cows and sheep





than they could feed, more milk and wool than they could use, but no money to pay their debts or to buy the things they needed. Just across the line in Canada were men who would pay them good money for their farm products. As a result these farmers began driving cattle and sheep over into Canada at night along unfrequented paths where no guards would see them. That was smuggling.

When in 1812 war was declared against England, to smuggle became a more serious crime because Canada was a part of England. If any one was caught he might be put to death for trading with the enemy. So the Vermont farmers stopped going into Canada with their goods. But Canada now had a lot of new soldiers to feed, and it needed the farm products of Vermont more than before and was willing to pay big money for them.

The result was that there came to be a class of bold men who made a business of smuggling. They would come to a farmer and say: "How many cows have you to sell?" Perhaps the farmer would say: "Ten." The visitor would say to the farmer: "Here is a good price for the ten cows. Before you go to bed to-night leave them outside in the barnyard."





Some farmers took the money, left the cows in the barnyard, and went to bed. In the morning the cows were gone. Sometimes the American soldiers would catch the smugglers with their cows before they were able to get into Canada and sometimes there would be real fights. If the soldiers won, the cattle were used by the Americans and the smugglers, if caught, were put in jail. Smugglers' Notch was one of the places where cattle and other goods were hidden.

Near Lake Champlain, farmers and merchants in cities like Burlington and St. Albans would deliver goods, that had been secretly bought, to some hidden place near the lake. At night the smugglers would come to these places in boats and take the goods away. The Americans had patrol boats on Lake Champlain to capture these smugglers' boats.

It must have been very exciting work. No lights were lit on the smugglers' boats because the patrol-boats would see the lights. Neither were there any lights on the patrol-boats because then the smugglers would know where they were. Think of sailing on a dark night on the lake and never knowing when you would run ashore or, worse yet, find yourself





beside a government patrol-boat. One smugglers' boat, the *Black Snake*, was captured by a government patrol-boat after a pretty hard fight. The smugglers were taken to jail at Burlington and one was hung. The rest were kept in jail for a long time.

During the first two years of the War of 1812 a good deal of smuggling was going on in Vermont. But in 1814 Vermonters realized that the war was coming to their own homes. England had defeated the armies of Napoleon in Europe and sent over to Canada several thousand of her veteran soldiers. They intended to do what Burgoyne had failed to do in the Revolutionary War—go through Lake Champlain and then down the Hudson River to Albany and New York. This would cut the New England States off from the rest of the country.

Vermonters met this new danger with the spirit of 1776. Volunteers poured into Burlington and other places along the lake and were sent across to Plattsburg, where preparations were being made to meet the British. All the winter and summer Commodore MacDonough was busy making and arming ships at Vergennes, on the Otter Creek.



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Early in the morning of September 11, 1814, a British war fleet of sixteen ships appeared on the lake before Plattsburg and at the same time British troops attacked the town. The British ships were never able to help their land forces, for immediately Commodore MacDonough's fleet of fourteen ships, that had been made at Vergennes, sailed out to meet them.

The ships began to fire upon each other at once. For more than two hours the lake was covered with smoke and the mountains on either side echoed back and forth the roar of guns. At last the firing stopped. This meant one side had surrendered. The crowds on the shore waited breathlessly for the smoke to clear away. Then all at once there went up a mighty cheer, for, floating from the mast of Commodore MacDonough's flagship was the Stars and Stripes. The British ships had fought until they were almost shot to pieces and they now floated helplessly around the lake. As soon as the British soldiers attacking Plattsburg saw that their fleet was destroyed they gave up the fight and retreated back into Canada. England made no further effort to capture Lake Champlain.





## THE WAR OF 1812 AND AFTER 99

While the Vermont soldiers were at Plattsburg some Canadians entered Derby Line and burned a few buildings. Aside from this, the



Commodore MacDonough had been very busy making and arming a ship at Vergennes.

War of 1812 did not come again near Vermont.

Up until the time of the Embargo Act, 1808, the people of the United States bought most of their manufactured goods from Europe. When trade with Europe was stopped a num-



ber of small factories started up all over America. After the War of 1812 the European manufacturers tried to force all our factories into bankruptcy by selling goods cheaper than they could be made here. This finally resulted in our government putting a tariff on manufactured articles which were imported into this country. When you grow older you will hear a great deal about the tariff. Some people to-day believe there should be no tariff, they are called free traders; others believe in a tariff based on careful study and still others believe that the more tariff the better.

During the War of 1812 the New England States, although fortunately Vermont did not officially take part, made a serious mistake. They practically declared that if a group of States did not agree with the national government they could set up a new country of their own. John Adams, the last President elected by the Federalist party, was from New England, and this part of the country alone remained in favor of the Federalist party. The Federalists did not like the Republican-Democrat party; the Embargo Act hurt New England more than any other part of the country because most of its trade was either by ships







All crops failed in 1816. Many Vermonters sold their farms and joined the ever-increasing caravan.



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with other countries or by land with its neighbor Canada; New England did not favor war with England and criticised the way the war was fought. For all this there was good reason. But there was not reason enough for a convention of New Englanders to declare they could separate from other States. This the Hartford Convention did.

Forty years later, when another section of the country did not like what the national government was doing about slaves, the sons of these New Englanders fought to prove that what their fathers had declared was false. They offered their lives to establish the fact that no State could separate from the Union. Vermont was so evenly divided between Federalists and Republican-Democrats that no official representatives were sent to this unfortunate Hartford Convention.

After the War of 1812 Vermont was no longer a State for pioneers. These hardy people now turned to the vast country of the West. In 1816 almost all the crops in Vermont failed because of frosts every month. It was called the "Starvation Year." As a result many Vermonters sold their farms, put all their household goods into covered wagons,





and joined the ever-increasing caravan that carried settlers into all parts of the great West.

Under the influence of the tariff laws fac-



Concord Academy, 1825. First school in the United States for the training of teachers.

tories increased both in size and number. These factories were usually located in States that had large cities. Many Vermonters preferred working in factories to farming and so still more people left the State for these manufacturing centres. Nevertheless, the popula-



tion of Vermont grew, but not as rapidly as in former years.

Both in Vermont and in the nation political differences were being forgotten. New inventions made life easier and more interesting. The kitchen range took the place of the open fire, the steel plow replaced the old wooden one, and railroads did away with the slow, tiresome stage-coaches and the still slower wagons for hauling goods to and from other places.

More attention was given to education. The first academy for girls was opened at Middlebury, and Norwich College, the oldest military college in the United States outside of West Point, was established first at Norwich and later moved to Northfield.

The two problems that caused the most anxiety were intemperance at home and slavery in the South. In the old days when Governor Chittenden ran a tavern, people did not think so much about the evils of too much drinking, but as civilization grew they began to realize that a master more brutal than the slave-driver in the South was intemperance in their own State. As a result we had the beginning of the crusade against alcoholic drinks which finally resulted in prohibition.





As to slavery, the rapid settlement of the West brought this problem more and more to the front and caused bitter feeling to rise between those of the North who held that slavery was wrong and those of the South who held that it was right.

In our next chapter we shall read how this difference over slavery caused a new political party to be formed, how the old question of the authority of the States and the authority of the federal government was argued again, how a number of States in the South tried to do what the New England States in the Hartford Convention declared that States could do, and how Vermonters were called upon to fight to save the Union.



## CHAPTER IX

### CIVIL WAR

If you had lived forty years ago you would have heard older people telling about how things were before the war. In the thirty years before the Civil War the people of the United States discovered that their country, instead of being a few States strung along the Atlantic Ocean, was a vast empire. Bold pioneers from Vermont and other eastern States loaded their children and household goods into covered wagons and crossed over the Appalachian Mountains to the broad fertile plains beyond. They crossed the Mississippi River and pushed on across the prairies to the high Rockies, then to the Sierras, and on to the Pacific Ocean. The vast territory of Texas became a part of the United States, and as a result of the Mexican War the great southwestern part of our country was added.

As the news from the pioneers was carried back to the East and across the Atlantic to Europe thousands of immigrants came to America and found homes in the West. Then in 1849 gold was discovered in California and





there was a still greater rush of people for the far West. In those days if any person in the East didn't like his job he could go West and take land almost for the asking.

Of the working people who came to this great country, thousands found employment first in digging canals and later in laying railroads. Within thirty years America had changed from a weak nation that the nations of Europe insulted and laughed at to the foremost power of the world, the promised land to millions in Europe. It is small wonder that Americans held their heads high and bragged about their country.

But in the midst of all this prosperity and pride there was one thing that troubled the more thoughtful statesmen; that was slavery. As new land was settled in the West, States were formed and, in time, they asked to be admitted as one of the United States. Every time such an application was made at Washington the question came up: Shall slavery be allowed in the new State? The North said no. Vermont always said no; Vermonters declared time and again that slavery was an evil and must not be allowed to spread any further. The South said yes.



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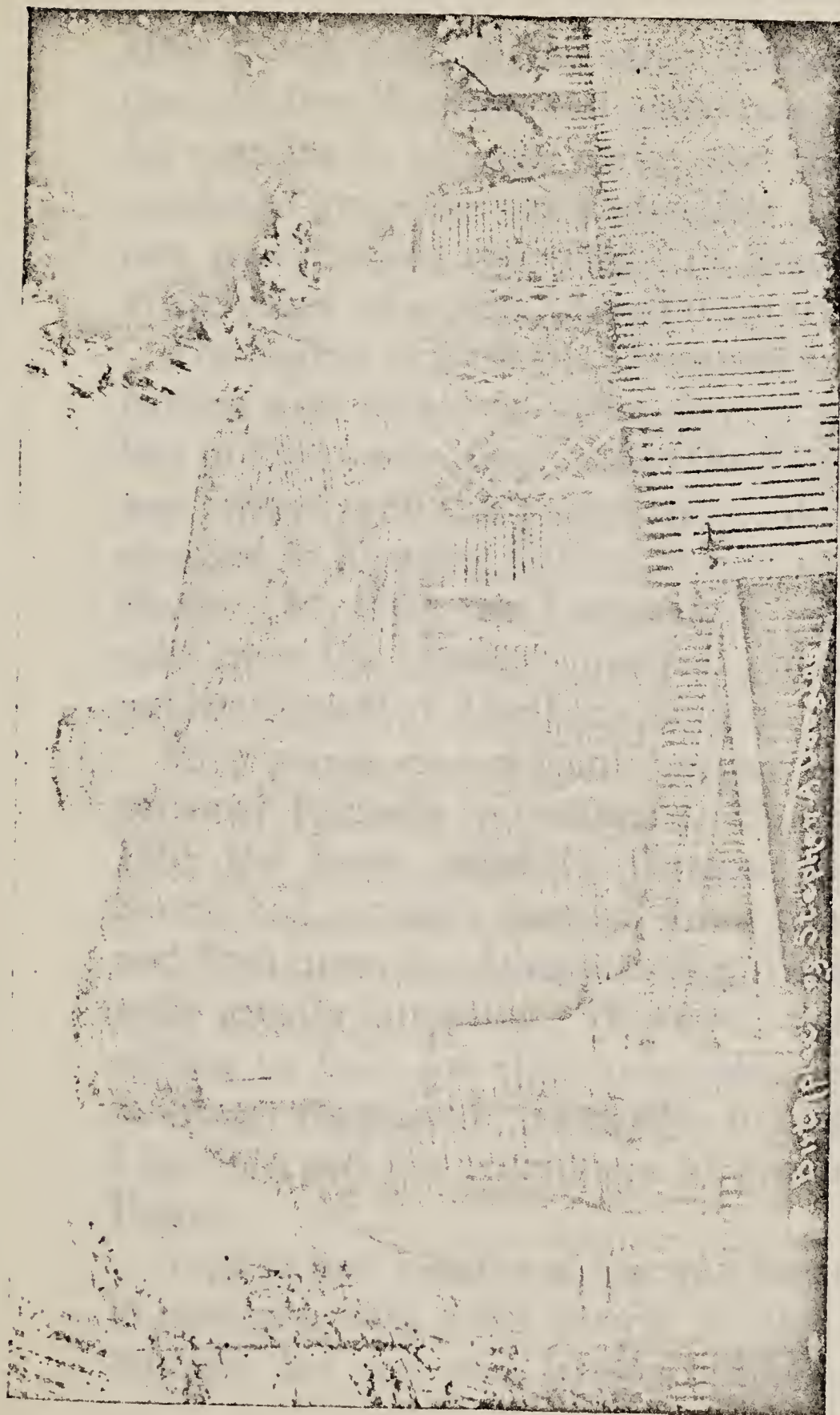
Vermonters and the North were right, but perhaps if some leaders in the North had appreciated the southern side better, perhaps if travel between the North and South had been as common as now, the slaves would have been freed without the terrible Civil War. Anyway, during those glorious days when the country was growing in prosperity and size only a few people realized that this question of slavery was leading toward civil war.

One of the statesmen who did see the danger of war was born in Vermont, although he lived most of his life in Illinois. To-day Vermonters point with pride to the birthplace of Stephen A. Douglas, at Brandon, but in the latter days of his life I am afraid he was not very popular in the North. Douglas, like Clay and Webster, saw that the ill feeling between the North and the South over slavery was growing worse. They feared civil war and they tried to avoid it by compromises, but they only succeeded in postponing it a few years. Douglas and Webster lived long enough to be called traitors by the North and cowards by the South as a reward for their efforts.

In Vermont and the other New England States the old Federalist party had lived on







The birthplace of Stephen A. Douglas, Brandon, Vermont.  
From Crockett's "History of Vermont," by courtesy of the author.



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after it was dead in the other States. President Andrew Jackson had made many powerful enemies in his own party, and these men combined with the old Federalists to form a new party, called the Whig. In Vermont the Whig party was quite powerful up to 1854.

The leaders of both the Democrat and Whig parties were afraid to make slavery an issue. But in 1856 a new party, called the Republican, was formed, and this party came out flatly as opposed to allowing slavery in any more new States. In 1860 the Democratic party was split over the slavery question and the Republicans elected Abraham Lincoln.

Most people do not think beyond their own personal business or concerns. So, when in 1861 the news came to Vermont that the South had actually seceded from the Union and fired upon the American flag, Vermonters were greatly surprised. However, they were willing to fight for their principles and Vermonters responded promptly to President Lincoln's call for volunteers to preserve the Union.

In those first months of the war Vermonters, in common with most people in the North, thought the war was largely a bluff on the





part of the South and would not last more than a few months. But months passed into years and still there were no signs of peace. From all over the Green Mountains men and boys had gone South never to return and still the call was for more soldiers. Vermonters responded to each call. Before the end of the war one-tenth of the population of the State had enlisted.

When the lists of the killed and wounded from the first battles were known many people mourned for the boys who had fallen on both sides. They were all Americans; they were the innocent victims of a misunderstanding that had grown into war partly because of the influence of fanatics and people of narrow vision. President Lincoln through all the years of the war kept this conviction; in one of his last speeches he pleaded for "charity toward all and malice toward none."

But as the years went by and still the burden grew heavier there came over the northern people a hatred for those in the South. They felt that the Southerners had brought on this terrible conflict merely because a party they did not like had won the election without first giving that party any chance to try what it



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could do. This hatred was destined to cause the South even more terrible suffering after



The life of a woman on a farm was hard work.

the war than the war itself. It was to last in the Green Mountains of Vermont for many, many years. Happily to-day it is fast disappearing.





Except for the St. Albans raid there was no actual fighting in Vermont, but Vermonters were in all the important battles of the war. In the centre of almost every village you will find a monument erected in memory of soldiers who were in the Civil War, and around the base of these monuments you will find carved, "Bull Run, Chickamauga, Antietam, Wilderness, Gettysburg," etc., places where the boys from those towns fought.

In those days of few inventions the life of a woman on the farm was hard work from daylight to dark, with no vacation. Yet during the war these brave women somehow found time to do the men's work too and to make clothing for the boys in the South. I think they deserve a monument quite as much as the soldiers but I have never found one for them.

The St. Albans raid took place in October, 1864. In the days before the war slaves who had run away from cruel masters down South tried to get into Canada and, no doubt, many Vermonters helped them get there. Canada was a different country; its government did not believe that a human being, black or white, was any one's property and so the masters were unable to take a slave out of Canada.



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During the Civil War many captured Confederate soldiers escaped from northern prisons and made their way into Canada. The northern soldiers had no right to enter Canada to capture them again and so, although they were far from their southern homes, they were free.

By 1864 there were a large number of former Confederate soldiers in Canada. They knew that almost all the northern armies were in the South, and some of them thought that if they crossed from Canada into the United States and raided some towns along the border it would so frighten the people that some of the soldiers in the South would have to be sent back to protect these towns. This would mean fewer men to fight against their friends in the South.

St. Albans, in the northern part of Vermont, was one of the places selected. The Confederates had to keep their plans secret, for the government of Canada was neutral in the war. That meant that officially she did not favor either the South or the North and that neither side could use any of her land for military purposes. She did not regard escaped prisoners of war as soldiers, but the moment any





escaped prisoner tried to help his friends he was considered a soldier and could not remain in Canada. For this reason many of the Confederates would not join the plan. They said: "We can't do any lasting good, we will be put out of Canada and that means we will be put back into northern prisons." However, one day in October, 1864, a number of former Confederate soldiers entered St. Albans on horseback disguised as visitors. At a signal they broke into the banks and several stores and with what booty they could collect rushed back to Canada.

There was quite a lot of excitement for a few days and all kinds of rumors about a Confederate army coming from Canada. But in a few days people realized that this was impossible, and the southerners who took part in the raid made more trouble for themselves than for any one else.

Then came the happy days of 1865, the war was over and the soldier boys were coming home. Alas! not all of them, for from every village there were some who had given their lives for the Union. Of the returning soldiers some wanted nothing better than to spend the rest of their days amid the mountains they



loved; others did not feel that way. During the war they had seen much of the country and had met men from everywhere. Those who lived on isolated mountain farms realized that in some other parts of the country there were better chances to get ahead, to make money, than in Vermont. A few years after the war many of these left Vermont again, this time not to fight, but to seek new fortunes in the growing cities or in the undeveloped West.





## CHAPTER X

### THE GREEN MOUNTAINS

Let us make believe that we are walking along the bank of one of the rivers in Vermont in the spring, when the water is high because of the melting snow up in the Green Mountains. In the summer this water will be so clear that in quiet places you can see the grass and trees on the bank reflected in it, but now it is a dirty brown color and runs by so fast that when we stand still and look at it steadily we feel that we and the ground we are standing on are rushing up-stream at great speed.

As we continue our walk we come by and by to a little pocket or bay cut in the side of the bank. In this bay the water is calm and a number of bits of driftwood float leisurely around on its surface. Once in a while one of these pieces floats too near the main current and is carried off down-stream.

This quiet bay represents the story of Vermont in the years following the Civil War, and the rushing river represents the rest of the



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country. The bits of driftwood that are carried out of the bay represent the men and women who left Vermont for other parts of the country.

First let us take a brief look at the other parts of our country. We think first of the South because there the war was fought. People who had been used to comfortable homes with colored slaves to wait on them, now found that they had almost nothing left. Worse than that, the ignorant slaves had just been made free, and many of them, under the leadership of dishonest men from the North, controlled the legislatures of the States. They spent in all kinds of foolish and dishonest ways more money in a year than the States had spent in twenty-five years before the war, and they put heavy taxes on the former soldiers and their families to raise this money. It was many years before life in the South became peaceful again.

Out in the far West a new country was being settled, new mines of gold and silver and other valuable metals were being discovered, and thousands of miles of railroad were being laid. Cowboys, miners, foreign laborers, speculators, gamblers, rum-sellers, and the steady stream





of new-comers in search of a fortune made life there exciting enough.

In the East, north of the southern States, new factories were opened, country towns grew into cities, and a few men were building up immense fortunes, not always honestly. As a result the laboring people began to strike for a fairer share of the country's wealth. The rich men brought over from countries of southern Europe shiploads of laborers to take the places of the strikers. The strikers refused to allow them to work and oftentimes bitter fights occurred.

But up in Vermont life went on much as it had before the war. Most of the people were farmers and many who lived up in the mountains hardly knew what was going on in the rest of the country. In the spring when the bluebirds came back it was time to make maple sugar. They trudged through the melting snow to tap the maple trees. Large cans were put on a sort of flat-bottomed boat and pulled from tree to tree by the patient oxen until they were filled with sap and hauled to the sugar-houses. At the sugar-house a fire was kept going day and night under a large vat to boil the sap down to maple syrup and





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sugar. Warm, clear days and freezing nights made ideal sap weather.

When little green buds appeared on the



In the spring it was time to make maple sugar.

branches of the trees the sugar season was over. Then there were pasture fences to be fixed up for the cows and sheep and after that the hard work of plowing and planting.





In those days of but crude farm machinery it was hard labor from sunrise to sunset all through the summer and early autumn.

When the first snow came the farmer might take a few days off for hunting. In the winter, in addition to the never ceasing chores, there was wood to be cut and, when sleighing was good, logs to be hauled to the nearest sawmill or firewood to the village.

Here and there, usually at crossroads, a church and schoolhouse were built, then a country store would open, and gradually some of the older people would leave the isolated farms, buy a little land and build homes near the church and school. These little hamlets, hardly large enough to be called villages, were the centres for the surrounding farmers. Here they came together on Sunday for church, and here their children came to the little one-room schoolhouses.

At the store butter and eggs were exchanged for dry goods and groceries, and in the winter the farmers would gather around the stove to hear someone read the newspaper and to talk politics.

Usually there were several of these hamlets in a township. At one of them would be built the town hall and it became the centre



of the town government. Here every March all the voters would come together for town meeting. They elected town officers, decided how much of the town's money should be spent for schools, how much for roads, etc. Every other year they elected one of their townsmen to go to the legislature, at Montpelier.

To go to the legislature was a great event. It was and, to a large extent, still is customary to appoint a different person each time so that as many as possible may have the pleasure. There are counties in Vermont, but most of the government is in the hands of town or State officials.

These Vermont farmers were good neighbors. Sometimes people called them close but that was because they had little money. If a farmer was sick neighbors would help on his farm; they were always willing to give liberally of their farm products to church socials, to visitors, or to the sick. In the little schoolhouse or the town hall they used to put on simple plays, tableaux and other entertainments. In some sections there were debates. They were not ignorant people and in preparation for their debates they would study the best books.





However, it was a hard, lonely life on these mountain farms — probably harder for the women folk than for the men — and the re-



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President Coolidge.

ward was just a living. As a result many of the younger people would leave the quiet bay and go out into other parts of the country.



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President Coolidge is a typical example of this. Plymouth, his birthplace and boyhood home, is a crossroads settlement: a church, schoolhouse, store, and few houses. When he grew old enough for high school his father sent him to the nearest village, Ludlow. From there, after a year at the academy in St. Johnsbury, he went to college. There was not much future for a brilliant college graduate in his home settlement and so, like hundreds of other Vermonters, he went to the larger towns.

But if Plymouth could not offer President Coolidge much after he left college it had given him a great deal. In the first place it had taught him self-reliance. When the children in places like Plymouth wanted a plaything they didn't go to a store and buy it; instead, they went to the barn and made it. When they grew up it was the same way; almost everything they owned they had made. This gave them a sense of self-confidence, of independence, the courage to follow their own convictions without fear of what some one else might do.

In a simple hard-working community like Plymouth no one had any use for a lazy or





dishonest person. Their simple but sincere religion, their hard but honest toil, and, perhaps most of all, the beautiful mountains on all sides of them developed a deep love of home and of loyalty.

Sometimes people say that these Vermont farmers were not progressive, that they lived in a rut. There is some truth in this, but it is a result of their love of home. One old farmer returned home from a few days' visit to find that his daughter-in-law had had a new window cut in the kitchen to make it lighter. It was weeks before he could get used to it. He used to say: "It ain't like the old home."

These people lived so much by themselves and did so much for themselves that they were apt to be distrustful of things that they could not understand. One old farmer, and not an ignorant man either, once said to the writer: "When I went to school they used to try to tell me that the sun didn't go round the earth every day. There are a few things I see, and ever since I was a baby I have seen the sun come up over the mountains in the east, go across the sky, and go down in the west, and no one can ever make me believe that it doesn't."



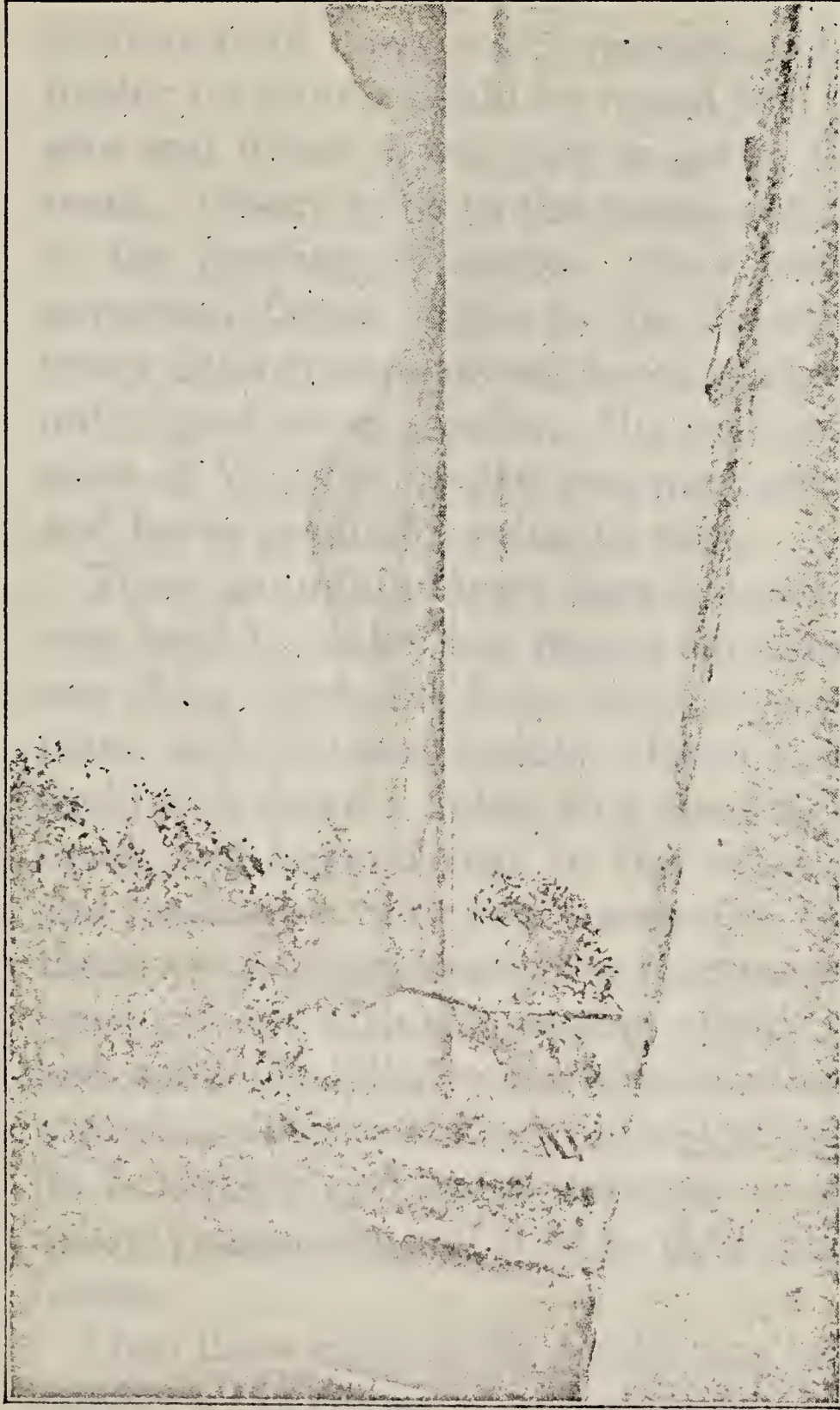
But if for a time things did not change much in Vermont, things were happening in the rest of the world that were bound to bring changes. The vast plains of the West could raise grain cheaper than the hills of Vermont. Sheep-raising, once the farmers' best standby, became less profitable. Railroads made the supply of milk to the growing cities a big source of profit. But milk must be shipped every day and the out-of-the-way mountain farmers could not get milk to the railroad stations every day without using up most of the day in going back and forth.

In Philadelphia a great world's fair was held in 1876. It was called the Centennial because it was one hundred years after the Declaration of Independence. At this fair, Americans saw models of European buildings far more beautiful than any in this country, and there came about a desire for beautiful buildings. This led to a larger demand for marble and granite, and nowhere else in the country were there such fine marble and granite as in Vermont.

Things like these influenced the younger people to leave the mountain farms and to take up land in the fertile river valleys where







Lake Willoughby, Vermont.



thousands of cows could pasture and where fodder for winter could be raised and kept in silos and where it was easy to get to the railroads. Others went to the towns and worked in the growing industries. As a result the mountain farms began to be deserted and many little crossroads settlements like Plymouth grew even smaller. Up in the mountains of Vermont to-day you may see houses and barns gradually going to ruin.

These mountain farms were isolated and it was hard to make any money on them, but one thing they did have beyond any other place, and that was beauty. From them you could look down a valley to a clear mountain brook and beyond that to the wooded hills and mountains. For every season of the year there was a magnificent view that made one's heart cry out with the prophet of old: "I will look unto the hills from whence my strength cometh." This is the reason why, in spite of its hardships and small rewards in money, many Vermonters still cling to their mountain homes.

Then there came an invention that to-day is causing a big change in the mountains of Vermont; old houses are being restored, other





houses are being enlarged, and modern conveniences added. That invention is the automobile. The old roads, where during a part of the year it was almost impossible for a horse to get through, are disappearing and in their places are hard-surfaced modern roads. These roads usually follow close by a mountain brook and about every quarter-mile reveals to the traveller a pleasing surprise. Here a forest closes him in and a little way beyond up a grade, around a curve, he sees before him a glorious panorama of mountains and below in the distance a plain with its herd of grazing cattle. A little way more and he is beside a mountain lake surrounded by hills and woods where white birches admire their graceful curves reflected in the clear water and again he enters a deep cut between two hills where he expects every minute the road will end at the foot of a steep cliff, but, turning this way and that, it goes on to other beautiful views beyond. The most delightful experience of all awaits those who are hardy enough to leave their car at an inn and follow the trails that lead over the mountain peaks and sleep in the huts that have been built along the mountain path. The Green Mountain Trail



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and its many branches pass over all the mountain peaks of Vermont.

These roads and the automobile have made it easier to appreciate the beauty of the mountains, and they have removed the greatest handicaps of mountain homes, isolation and the lack of means of making a living, for to-day tourists from all parts of the world come to the Green Mountains, and the inhabitants have found a new and profitable livelihood in providing hospitably for them. That is why so many homes are being remodelled and equipped with modern conveniences. More than that, many of the neglected small houses are being made over into cottages for families who want to spend the summer in the mountains.

The mountain farms that do not pay are now being turned back into forests. The State Department of Forestry raises thousands of little trees of the kind that will grow best in Vermont. As a result, in twenty years from now the forest will return to the land that was cleared a century ago by the pioneer.

However, the mountain farms are only a part of the resources of Vermont. In the valleys of the many rivers that flow through





the State and along Lake Champlain there are thousands of acres of fertile lands. In 1875 the invention of the silo made it profitable for these river farmers to greatly increase the number of cows because the silo made it possible to provide fodder for the cows during the winter much more cheaply than formerly. There are more cows in Vermont to-day than people, and every day long trains carry milk from these farms to the larger cities to the south.

Dairy products, maple syrup, fruit and other farm products enable these farmers to prosper. The frequent waterfalls make electric power so accessible that to-day almost every hamlet and a large number of farms enjoy electric light and power.

There are no large cities in this State. Burlington, on Lake Champlain, the largest, has a population of about twenty-five thousand. In all these larger places there are small but prosperous manufacturing plants. Then there are the stone industries. In the Green Mountains there are vast deposits of marble, granite, slate, and talc. Barre is the centre of the world for granite, Proctor for marble and St. Johnsbury for maple products. Vermont



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still provides a large amount of lumber and wood for paper pulp.

We have compared the pieces of driftwood



Nowhere else in the country were there such fine marble and granite as in Vermont.

that left the quiet bay and floated out into the big current of the river to the people who left Vermont. Some of these people still kept their homes in Vermont but their active life





was mostly nation and world wide. Vermont is justly proud of their service, but they belong more to a history of the United States than of Vermont. We will only mention a few of their names.

First, of course, we think of President Coolidge, and he reminds us of another President who was a native of Vermont—Chester A. Arthur. Vermont has no seacoast, yet she has given three naval leaders of the highest ability—Admiral George Dewey, the hero of Manila Bay, Admiral Mayo, whose exploits were not as spectacular but of great value, and Admiral Clark, who made the battleship *Oregon* famous. In the Congress of the United States the State is proud of the record of men like Edmunds, Poland, Morrill and Proctor. The list is far from complete but to write it would take us far from the Green Mountain State.

Twice after the Civil War, Vermont proved its loyalty to the nation in time of war. In both the Spanish American War and the World War there never was any doubt but that this State would generously fill every requirement in men, supplies and money. The loyalty of Vermont has often been compared



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to her native granite, the most enduring stone in the world.

In the beginning of this story the mountains and valleys of Vermont were deserted except by French war parties going south or English bands going north. With peace came the pioneers lured by the natural beauty and a desire for independence. For a quarter of a century, this small scattered group of early settlers had to struggle against such great foes as England, the colony of New York and the Continental Congress of the original States. But they never surrendered their love for independence, and they won. Then in later years the tide turned. Vermont was no longer a pioneer State and many of the descendants of the early settlers went out to make new conquests.

To-day we are at the beginning of a new change in the story of the State. Busy human beings long for rest and beauty. To them the Green Mountains, as lovely as when they attracted the early pioneers and now, thanks to good roads and the automobile, much more accessible, extend a welcome. There are Vermonters who are anxious to use to capacity the waterfalls of the State and multiply fac-





tories; this may be the new page of the story of Vermont. Most Vermonters would like to see more industries, but, after all, the world has plenty of manufactured things; it needs more than these the strength that comes from looking unto the hills. That Vermont has to offer.



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